T/L NOTE: MEIJIN, PRONOUNCED MAY JEEN, MEANS MASTER, IN THIS CASE THE HIGHEST RANK YOU CAN ATTAIN AS A PRO SHOGI PLAYER.

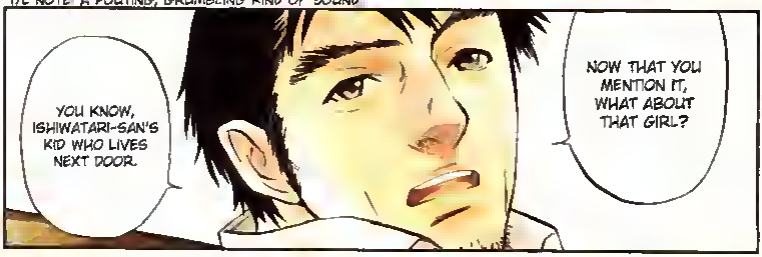
T/L NOTE: SHOGI IS OFTEN TIMES CALLED JAPANESE CHESS. IT'S AN INTEGRAL PART OF THIS MANGA SO YOU MIGHT WANT TO CHECK THIS OUT.

HTTP://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/SHOGI

TO THINK I LOST TO A GUY LIKE THAT!
I COULD JUST DIE...
IF I PLAY THIS KIND OF SHOGI*, I'LL BE A DECREPIT OLD GEEZER BEFORE I BECOME A MEIJIN*!

O GOD OF SHOGI, PLEASE MAKE IT SO THAT TODAY'S SHOGI NEVER HAPPENED.
HAI HAI I'M SURE HE'LL MAKE THAT HAPPEN FOR YOU.
I THINK WE'LL BE JUST FINE. EVEN IF YOU DON'T BECOME A MEIJIN WE CAN LEISURELY LIVE HERE LIKE WE HAVE.
BRINGING IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD KIDS, I TEACH THEM PIANO, YOU TEACH THEM SHOGI
MUUUU~

T/L NOTE: A POUTING, GRUMBLING KIND OF SOUND



T/L NOTE: AS MOST OF YOU KNOW, HAI MEANS YES WHEN IT'S REPEATED TWICE LIKE THIS IT'S RATHER SARCASTIC IN TONE.

T/L NOTE: JORYU MEANS "FEMALE DIVISION / CLASS" I'M USING THE JAPANESE BECAUSE IT'S SHORTER AND THIS WORD POPS UP OVER AND OVER =)

T/L NOTE: ARA IS USED MOST OFTEN BY WOMEN TO INDICATE MILD SURPRISE.

IF I COULD RAISE THAT GIRL TO BE A JORYU* MEIJIN, MY LIFE MIGHT NOT BE A COMPLETE WASTE.
ARA? SHE'S THAT GOOD?
SHION-CHAN? SHE COMES IN NOW AND THEN FOR A LESSON.

UNEXPECTEDLY, THERE MIGHT BE A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SHOGI AND PIANO TALENT
HER PLAYING IS A BIT..
A WHILE BACK I TAUGHT HER HOW TO ARRANGE THE PIECES, THE NEXT DAY SHE SOLVED A SHOGI PROBLEM*..
SHE'S STILL ONLY FOUR, RIGHT? THAT'S GENIUS
REALLY?
T/L NOTE* LIKE IN CHESS OR GO, THE PIECES ARE ARRANGED A CERTAIN WAY AND YOU HAVE TO FIGURE OUT THE SOLUTION
SFX* DOOR BELL RINGING
ピーンポーン!
WE'RE FROM EDOGAWA STATION..
DETECTIVES?
立入禁止
WE'RE SORRY FOR BOTHERING YOU AT NIGHT
THE TRUTH IS, THE ISHIWATARI COUPLE NEXT DOOR WERE..

First love
Shi
on's
Pa
th
o

しおん王
Shion no Ou
The Flowers of Hard Blood.
Story - Kotori Masaru
Manga - Andou Jirou

SEVEN YEARS AGO
MY PARENTS WERE KILLED

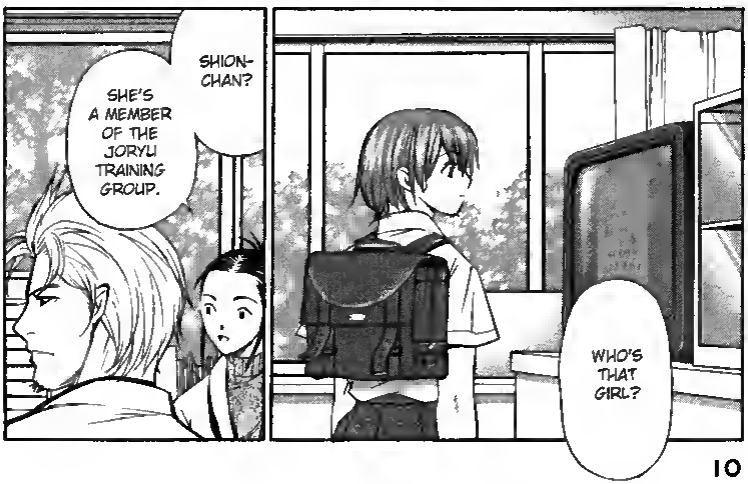
————SEVEN YEARS LATER - SHOGI ASSOCIATION
Shogi Association

Shogi Dojo
GOOD MORNING, SHION-CHAN. YOU'RE EARLY.
IS THAT SO, TODAY IS AN IMPORTANT DAY...?

WOW, THESE LOOK DELICIOUS. ARE THEY HOMEMADE?
THANKS AS ALWAYS. I'LL EAT THEM ALONG WITH EVERYONE.
AH!
MIZUNO-SAN, TEA PLEASE.

ARE YOU SURE IT'S ALRIGHT, HANI-MEIJIN?
AREN'T YOU IN THE MIDDLE OF A MATCH?! SHOULD YOU BE HERE EATING SWEETS?!
WORRIED ABOUT ME?
OH, DELICIOUS.

IT'S BORING SHOGI, ANYWAY.
SAYING THAT AGAIN...


SHION-CHAN?
SHE'S A MEMBER OF THE JORYU TRAINING GROUP.
WHO'S THAT GIRL?

SHE LOST HER PARENTS AT A YOUNG AGE.
THE POOR GIRL, BECAUSE OF THE SHOCK, EVEN NOW SHE CAN'T SPEAK.
BUT SHE'S INCREDIBLY STRONG!
SHE'S UNDEFEATED IN TRAINING LEAGUE PLAY SO FAR THIS TERM!
PLUS!
IF SHE WINS TWO MATCHES TODAY, SHE'LL BECOME A PRO KISHI*!
WELL, WELL.
THAT'S A CRIME, YOU KNOW. SHE'S STILL ONLY ELEVEN.
MIZUNO-SAN, YOU'RE MISUNDER-STANDING ME.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

T/L NOTE: A KISHI IS A SHOGI PLAYER.

UCHIDA AND INOUE'S MATCH DISPLAY...
IT'S BORING JUST WATCHING THE CHESS-BOARD, ISN'T IT.
.....
BLACK S-5i
BLACK S-5i*...
HMM
*T/L NOTE: THIS IS SHOGI GAME NOTATION IT DESIGNATES A MOVE FOR DETAILS: HTTP://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/SHOGI

WHITE P-SE.
THE REST IS HOMEWORK.
SHION-CHAN, IT'S TIME!
YOU'VE GOT TO HURRY AND GET TO YOUR MATCH!
Final Term
Destiny Leader

JORYU KISHI
IN ORDER TO BECOME A FEMALE PRO KISHI IT'S NECESSARY TO JOIN THE TRAINING LEAGUE AND PARTICIPATE IN LEAGUE MATCHES.
WHEN HALF A YEAR OF HARSH BATTLES PASSES AND A PLAYER STANDS WITHOUT A LOSS
THAT ONE SUPERIOR PERSON
歩兵
歩兵
歩兵
玉将
金将
銀将
THAT ONE PERSON ALONE, BECOMES A JORYU KISHI.

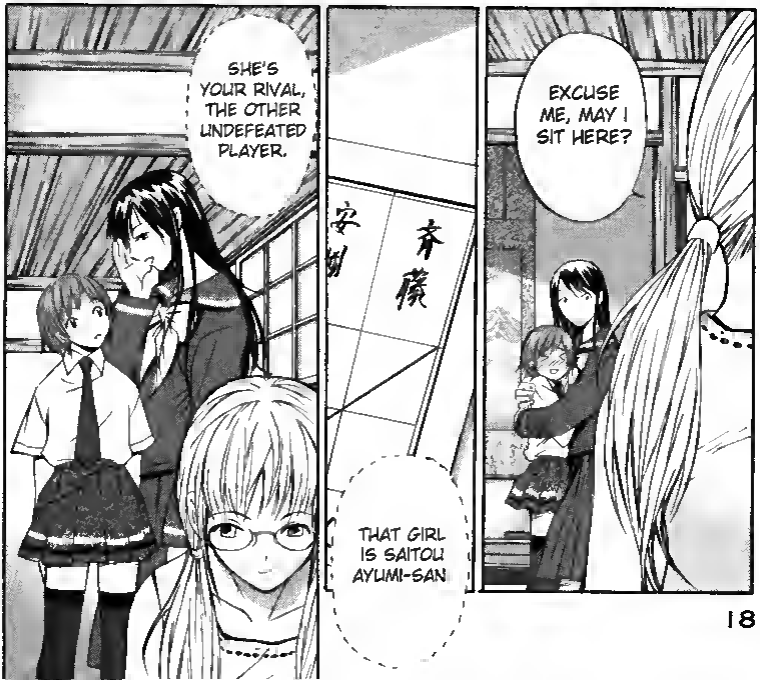
THIS GIRL... IN LEAGUE MATCHES THUS FAR SHE'S UNDEFEATED.
THERE'S ONE MORE WHO'S UNDE-FEATED.
AND THREE WITH ONE LOSS, MYSELF INCLUDED.
SHE'S DEFINITELY STRONG BUT SHE'S STILL A KID.
IF I CAN TURN THIS MATCH INTO A MELEE*, SHE'LL CERTAINLY CRUMBLE.
THERE IS STILL A CHANCE FOR ME TO WIN!
THE ROOK IS...
CRYING.

T/L NOTE. A WILD ROUGH GAME

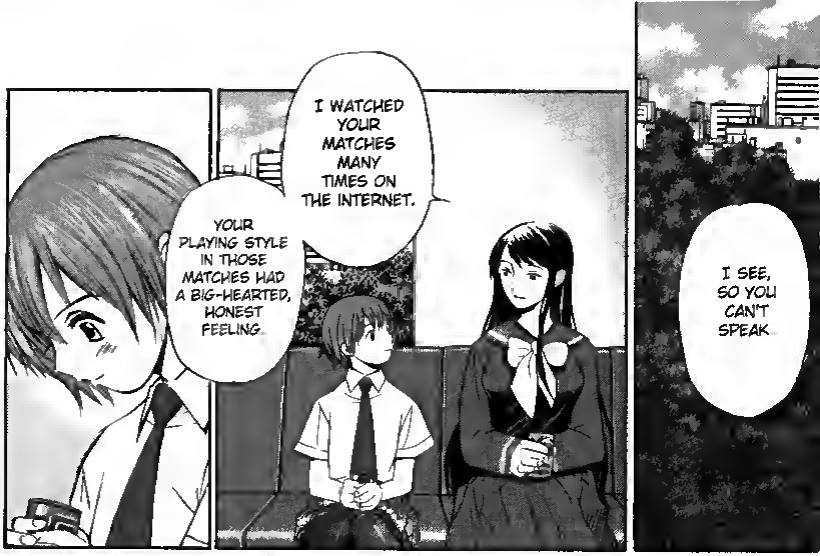
...THIS GIRL SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO SPEAK.
EEEEH?!
BUT JUST NOW, SURELY I HEARD HER VOICE!
GEEZ, WHAT AM I GOING TO DO IF I THROW MYSELF OUT OF RHYTHM
THIS MATCH STILL HASN'T BEEN DECIDED!
パチ

HAA
HOW BORING... I SHOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN OVER AS MEDIATOR FOR THE DEVELOPMENT GROUP
T/L NOTE SAID BY SOMEONE WHEN THEY MESS UP
ARARA...
GRR..
ARA? RESIGNING ALREADY?
THAT WAS QUICK
YOU! ARE YOU YASUOKA SHION-SAN?
SATOMI
YASUOKA
SAITOU
!?

T/L NOTE
A VERY GIRLISH SHRIEK OF PLEASURE



IS COFFEE OKAY?
HOT COCOA


I WATCHED YOUR MATCHES MANY TIMES ON THE INTERNET.
YOUR PLAYING STYLE IN THOSE MATCHES HAD A BIG-HEARTED, HONEST FEELING.
I SEE, SO YOU CAN'T SPEAK.

*T/L NOTE: DAN MEANS GRADE, SO 1 DAN IS LIKE FIRST GRADE. ANOTHER WORDS THE LOWEST RANK OF PROFESSIONAL SHOGI PLAYERS.

SHION!
IT SEEMS YOU WON YOUR FIRST GAME. YOU'RE NOT NERVOUS?
WHAT?
FLIRTING?
AT A PLACE LIKE THIS*?
*THE SHOGI ASSOCIATION
.....
HE'S MY FATHER'S APPRENTICE HIGATANI 3 DAN
IS THAT ALL?
YOUR SENIOR APPRENTICE?
THAT'S NOT VERY EXCITING.
WITH MEN, IF THEY DON'T HAVE NICE FINGERS THEY'RE NO GOOD.
PARTICULARLY WHEN IT COMES TO KISHI!
OKAY, HE PASSES.
WAA!

SHE'S RATHER TOUGH.
YOUR LAST OPPONENT, SAITOU, IS A JORYU APPRENTICE OF KAMIZONO?!
BUT SHION-CHAN WILL BE JUST FINE!
I'M SURE HE'S PRETTY FRANTIC RIGHT ABOUT NOW.
I'D BETTER GO CONTACT SENSEI.

HAA
HAA
OTOU-SAN*.
SHION'S MORNING GAME SHOULD BE ABOUT OVER, DON'T YOU THINK?
IT'S CALLED A 'MATCH'
A MATCH!
BARK!
*T/L NOTE JAPANESE COUPLES THAT HAVE KIDS TEND TO ADDRESS EACH OTHER AS "MOM" AND "DAD"
SFX PURURURU!! = PHONE RINGING
SFX BIKU! = *STARTLED*
HELLO, YASUOKA RESIDENCE
I'M NOT WORRIED! I'M JUST...
IF YOU'RE THAT WORRIED YOU MIGHT AS WELL TRY GIVING THE SHOGI ASSOCIATION A CALL.

HERE!
?
IT'S HISATANI-KUN.
YES.
YES.
HELLO... IT'S ME.
IS THAT SO.
OKAY.
I SEE...
HOW DID IT GO?
TELL SHION TO PLAY SO THAT SHE HAS NO REGRETS.

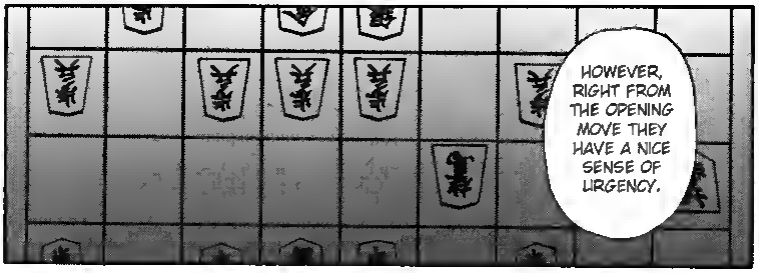
NOT YET... SHE HAS A DECIDING MATCH WITH ANOTHER UNDEFEATED GIRL THIS AFTERNOON
SO IF SHE WINS, SHE'LL BE A PRO KISHI AT LAST
IT SEEMS SHE WON HER MORNING MATCH WITH NO DIFFICULTY.
SO THEN SHE'S DONE IT?
I WONDER IF SHE'LL BE ALRIGHT.
AFTER ALL, SHE DOESN'T REALLY HAVE ANY DESIRE FOR THAT...
NO NEED TO WORRY
SHION WILL BE JUST FINE

Special Yearly Boom
ギッ…

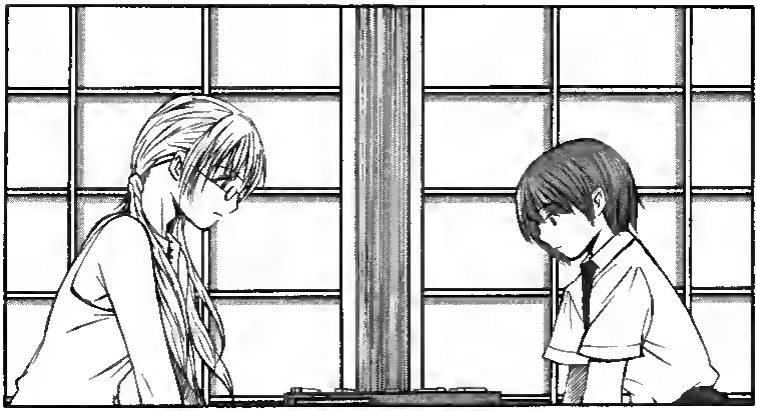
YOROSHIKU ONEGAISHIMASU
IT'S TIME TO START, YASUOKA-SAN, YOU HAVE THE FIRST MOVE.
ONEGAI-SHIMASU.

SHION-CHAN FROM YASUOKA-SENSEI'S PLACE IS STRONG,
BUT THIS SAITOU GIRL IS ALSO QUITE EXTRA-ORDINARY.
THOSE TWO COULD DEFINITELY COMPETE AT THE APPRENTICE ASSOCIATION*, DON'T YOU THINK?
SO IT'S FINALLY STARTED.
THIS TERM'S TRAINING GROUP IS OF QUITE A HIGH LEVEL.

*T/L NOTE APPRENTICE PROFESSIONALS' ASSOCIATION



PERSONALLY, I PREFER TO BE BLACK
I DON'T KNOW
IT'S RATHER DIFFICULT.
AT THIS POINT, DON'T YOU THINK THE WHITE PLAYER SAITOU-SAN IS DOING A LITTLE BETTER?
NO, IT LOOKS TO ME THAT THE BLACK PLAYER IS EVER SO SLOWLY TRYING TO DRAW HER IN.



.....

I THOUGHT I'D BE ABLE TO BE PROMOTED MUCH EASIER THAN THIS
TO THINK THAT THERE WOULD BE A GIRL LIKE THIS..

THIS ISN'T WHAT I EXPECTED

I WILL DEFINITELY BECOME A PRO!
HOWEVER, I CAN'T BACKTRACK AT THIS POINT.
SFX: GU! - DETERMINED FIST
HANI-MEIJIN!
INTERES-TING SHOGI, ISN'T IT?
OHH?! A CHALLEGE FROM WHITE!
THIS WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR BLACK!
WHAT A TOUGH BOARD TO PLAY ON.

TRAINING ASSOCIATION?
THIS MATCH?
THIS IS A TRAINING ASSOCIATION LEAGUE MATCH, YOU KNOW...
EH?
THE LOWER GIRL IS THE COOKIE GIRL.
HUH?
THAT'S MY YOUNGER APPRENTICE, SHION-CHAN.
YASUOKA...
I SEE, SO THAT GIRL IS YASUOKA-SENSEI'S.

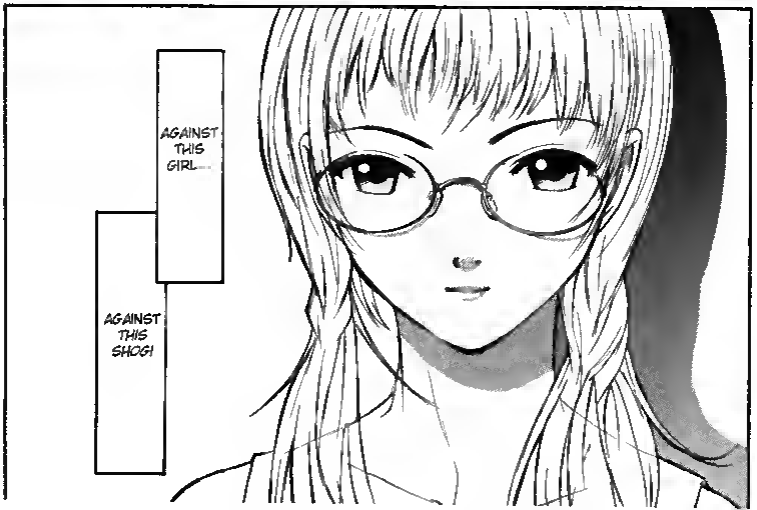
SHE'S HIS ADOPTED DAUGHTER
WHEN SHION LOST HER PARENTS, YASUOKA, WHO LIVED NEXT DOOR, TOOK HER IN
SHE MIGHT JUST BE... ANOTHER TRICK PLAYED BY THE GOD OF SHOGI
WORRIED ABOUT THE LITTLE LADY?
EH?
AH... WELL.

SINCE SHION WAS BROUGHT UP IN A VERY CARING HOUSEHOLD
I WONDER WHETHER SHE WILL BE ABLE TO USE HER FULL STRENGTH IN SUCH A TOUGH MATCH.
LOSING BECAUSE OF THE MOOD?
YEAH
TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT THE BOARD
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THINGS ARE TURNING OUT THAT WAY AT ALL.

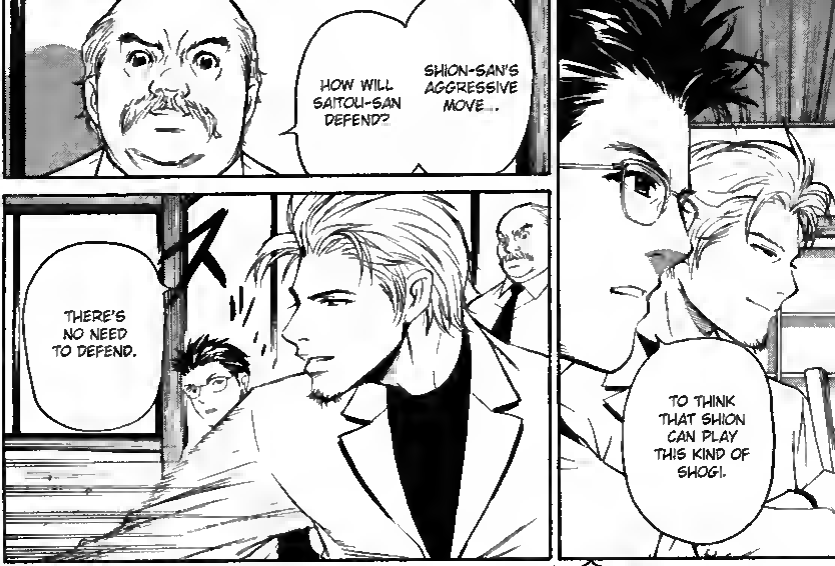
ドクン
WHAT IS THIS?
ドクン...
THIS FEELING...
WITH EVERY ONE-HANDED MOVE, DEEP IN MY HEART IT STEADILY GROWS
SFX DOKUN - POUNDING HEARTBEAT
ドクン...

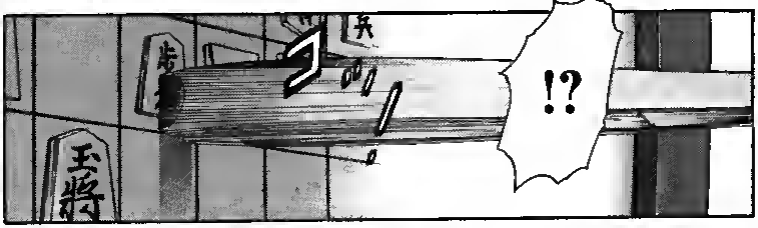
WHEN I PLAY WITH TOU-SAN I DON'T FEEL THIS WAY.
NOT WITH HISATANI-SAN OR THE OTHER PEOPLE EITHER.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE FELT THIS.
I SEE

I WANT TO
WIN.


AGAINST THIS GIRL...
AGAINST THIS SHOGI

I WANT TO WIN!
!!
THIS MEANS YASUOKA-SAN HAS NO INTENTION OF RETREATING, EITHER.
THERE IS NO CHOICE BUT TO DEFEND IT, I SUPPOSE.
UWAA, WHAT AN INCREDIBLE MOVE!!


HOW WILL SAITOU-SAN DEFEND?
SHION-SAN'S AGGRESSIVE MOVE...
THERE'S NO NEED TO DEFEND.
TO THINK THAT SHION CAN PLAY THIS KIND OF SHOGI.

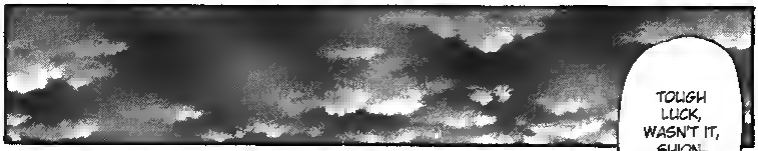

!?
玉將

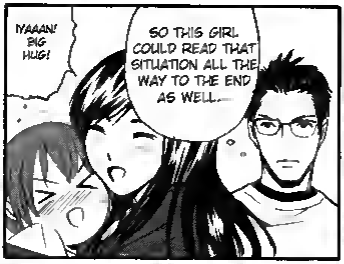
IF YOU PLAY THIS MOVE.

SOMEDAY WE MAY NOT NEED...
A WORD LIKE "JORYU".
スッ...
!?
THAT WAS QUITE A MOVE. WHAT WILL YOU DO, SAITOU-SAN...

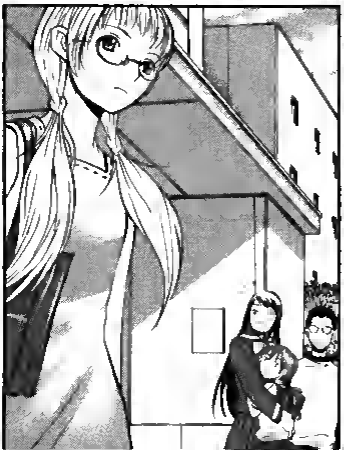
THE MOVE THE MEIJIN JUST PLAYED!
トン!
DON'T WORRY.
SHION...

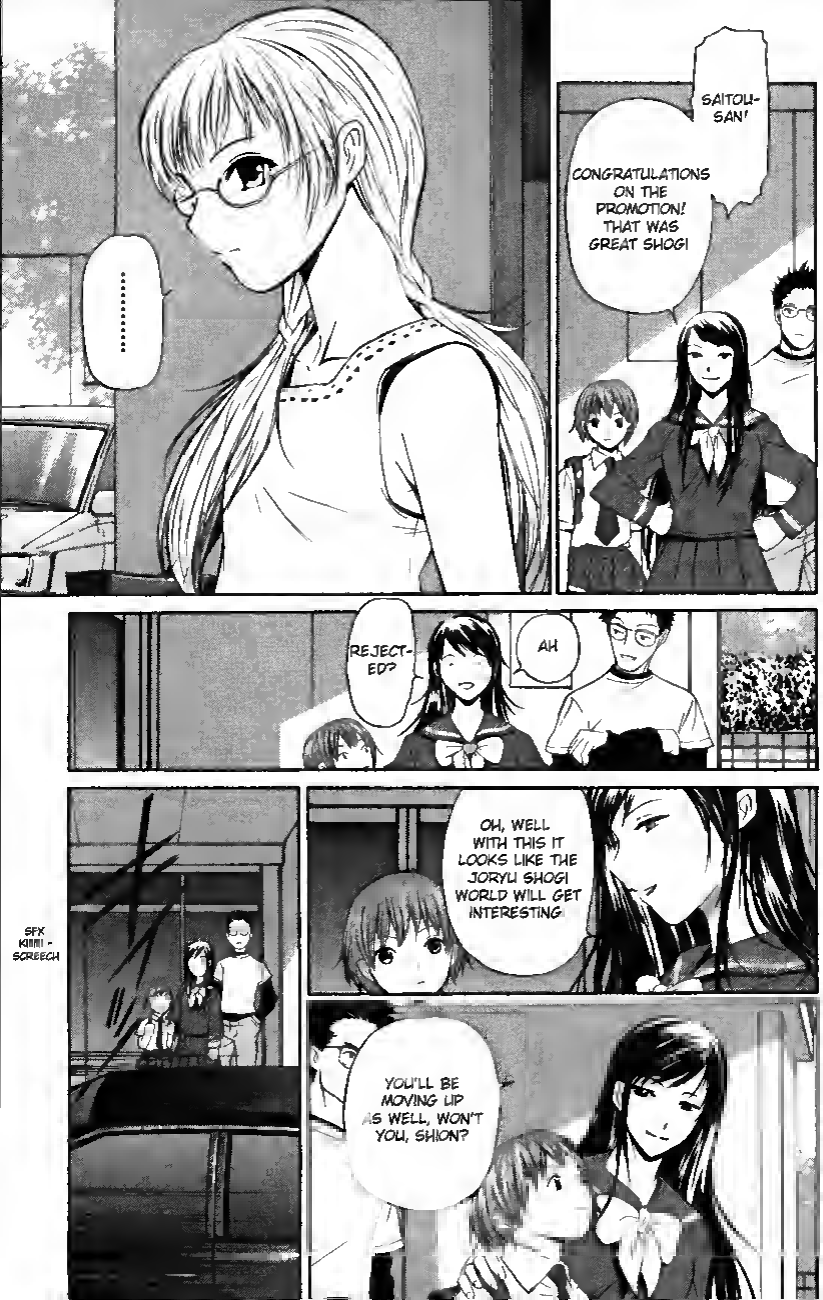
BECAUSE OF THIS,
SHE CAN BECOME EVEN STRONGER.


TOUGH LUCK, WASN'T IT, SHION.


IYAAAN! BIG HUG!
SO THIS GIRL COULD READ THAT SITUATION ALL THE WAY TO THE END AS WELL...

EVEN AFTER THAT YOU COULD HAVE CHANGED THINGS, BUT THE OPPONENT WOULDN'T HAVE LET YOU.
SHE WAS INCREDIBLY STRONG.

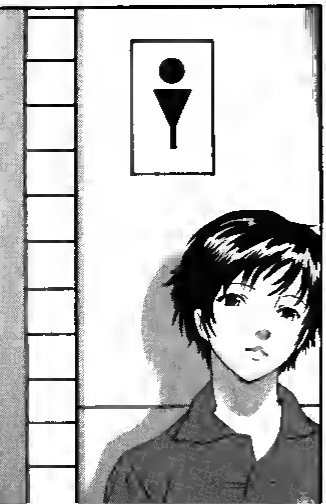



.....
SAITOU-SAN!
CONGRATULATIONS ON THE PROMOTION! THAT WAS GREAT SHOGI
AH
REJECT-ED?
OH, WELL WITH THIS IT LOOKS LIKE THE JORYU SHOGI WORLD WILL GET INTERESTING
SFX KIIIII - SCREECH
YOU'LL BE MOVING UP AS WELL, WON'T YOU, SHION?

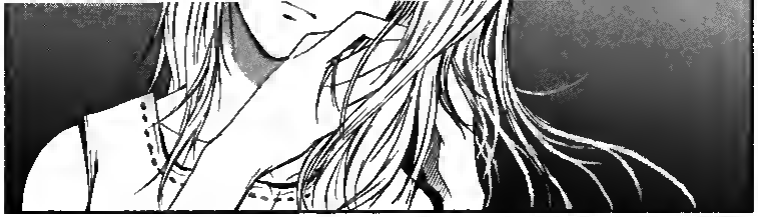
*T/L NOTE OJOU-SAMA IS A TITLE USED FOR THE DAUGHTERS OF WEALTHY FAMILIES

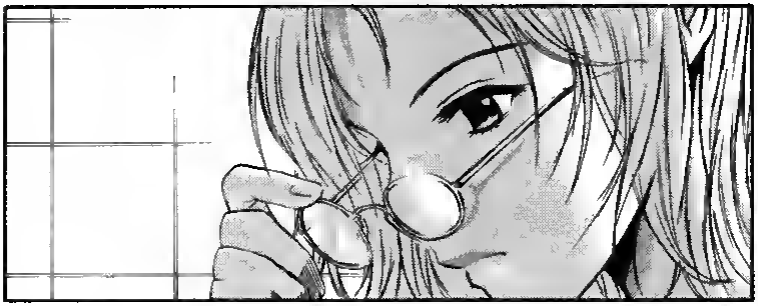
YEAH. I WON THE SECOND MATCH, TOO.
WITH THIS, I'M A PRO KISHI. I CAN FINALLY MAKE MY START.

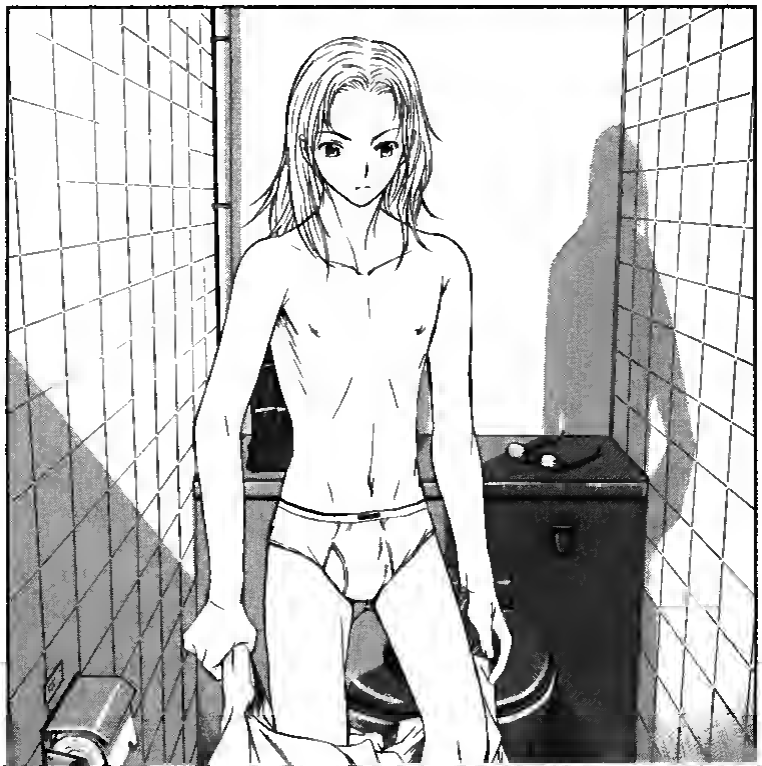
AYUMI!
ERI...
HOW WAS IT? DID YOU WIN?



RATHER THAN THAT, WHERE'S MY CHANGE OF CLOTHES?





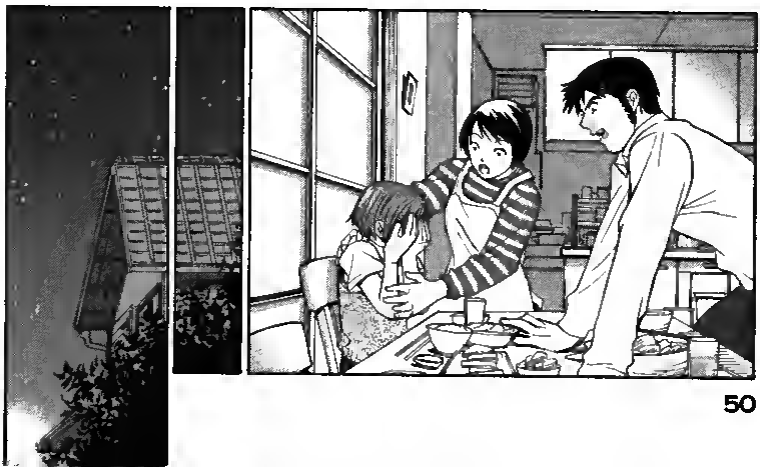


SETA.
WILL PAPA AND MAMA BE HOME TONIGHT?
YES, OJOU-SAMA?
NO...
THE PRESIDENT HAS A FEDERATION OF ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS MEETING
OKU-SAMA* IS AT A FRIEND'S PARTY.
*T/L NOTE A TITLE USED FOR THE MATRIARCH OF A WEALTHY FAMILY.
THEN, STOP AT A PLACE WHERE I CAN HAVE A SUITABLE DINNER.
HAI*.
*T/L NOTE AS MOST OF YOU KNOW, THIS MEANS YES, BUT HERE IT HAS MORE OF A "YES, MA'AM!" KIND OF FEEL TO IT
INVESTIGATE AND FIND OUT ALL THERE IS TO KNOW ABOUT THOSE TWO.
ALSO
SAITOU AYUMI AND YASUOKA SHION.
HAI, OJOU-SAMA.

TOUGH LUCK, WASN'T IT, SHION. AND YOU WERE SO CLOSE, TOO.
YOU'VE BEEN SAYING THE SAME THING FOR A WHILE, KAA-SAN
AS LONG AS SHE DOES HER BEST NEXT TERM, IT'LL BE FINE.

IT SEEMS YOUR LAST MATCH WAS QUITE A FIERCE CONTEST.
HISATANI WAS QUITE IMPRESSED.
WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS NEVER GIVING UP!
OH, THAT'S RIGHT.

YOU WERE ABLE TO PLAY SHOGI THAT YOU WERE SATISFIED WITH, RIGHT?
THAT'S RIGHT.
TONIGHT, LET'S EAT TO OUR HEART'S CONTENT AND WORK HARD AGAIN STARTING TOMORROW.
.....
IS SOME-THING WRONG?
SHION?



AAH, THAT WAS A SURPRISE.
FOR THAT GIRL TO CRY LIKE THAT.
SHE MUST HAVE REMEMBERED ABOUT THE INCIDENT.
YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT
HMM?
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME SHE'S CRIED AFTER LOSING AT SHOGI.
WHAT'S WITH YOU? YOU SEEM SORT OF HAPPY.

"NEVER GIVE UP"... EH.
THE ONE WHO WAS SAVED MIGHT WELL HAVE BEEN ME.
DURING THESE SEVEN YEARS
THANKS TO SHION I'VE BEEN ABLE TO PLAY FULFILLING SHOGI
WHAT KIND OF DREAM DO YOU THINK SHE'S HAVING?
DEAR...

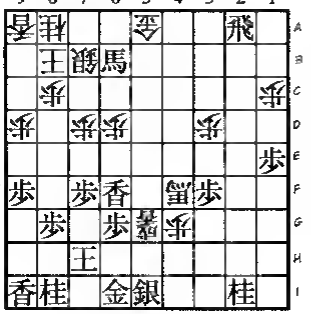
THAT'S OBVIOUS
A DREAM ABOUT WATCHING HERSELF LOSE AT SHOGI

YASUOKA SHION
NEXT YEAR, UNDEFEATED IN TRAINING ASSOCIATION LEAGUE PLAY! AFTER HALF A YEAR ... AT THE AGE OF TWELVE!
SHE BECOMES A JORYU KISHI.

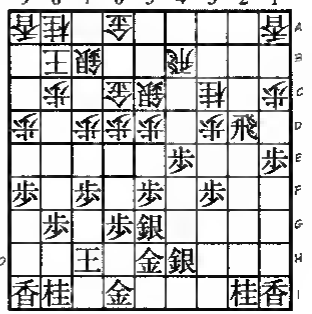
MATCH CHECK!

DIAGRAMS AND COMMENTARY BY KATORI MASARU

(FIGURE 1 - UNTIL BLACK R-2D)



(FIGURE 2 - UNTIL BLACK +B-6B)



THE DETAILS OF SHION AND AYUMI'S FIRST SHOWDOWN!

WHEN TWO PEOPLE COMPETE FOR THE FIRST TIME, BECAUSE THEY DON'T KNOW THINGS SUCH AS THEIR OPPONENT'S FAVORITE TACTICS, THEY TEND TO MAKE CAREFUL MOVES. BOTH PLAYERS IN THIS MATCH, UNTIL THE GAME REACHED THE STATE SHOWN IN FIGURE 1, MOVED THEIR PIECES BY THE BOOK. UNTIL THAT POINT THEY CAREFULLY OBSERVED EACH OTHER AND SOUDED OUT WHETHER THE PIECES THEIR OPPONENT ATTACKED WERE THEIR FAVORITE TYPE OR NOT.

AS AN OPPONENT CONTINUES TO MOVE THEIR PIECES, THEIR *KIFUU* BECOMES CLEAR, KIFUU MEANING THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THEIR SHOGI. EXAMPLES ARE SWAMP KIFUU, GRACEFUL KIFUU, DIGNIFIED KIFUU, VIOLENT KIFUU AND SO ON.

WITH A GRACEFUL KIFUU, IF ONE IS A PRO THEN THEY KNOW DOZENS OF MOVES AHEAD OF TIME WHETHER THEY WILL HAVE TO RESIGN, AND SO A PERSON WITH THIS STYLE, SINCE THEY UNDERSTAND THAT THEY ARE GOING TO LOSE, WILL THEN AND THERE GRACEFULLY RESIGN. AS FOR A SWAMP KIFUU, JUST AS THE NAME SUGGESTS, WHEN HIS OPPONENT THINKS THAT THEY ARE IN A NICE SITUATION, A PERSON WITH THIS STYLE WILL AT SOME POINT DRAW HIS OPPONENT INTO HIS PACE. AS FOR SHION, SHE HAS A TRANQUIL KIFUU, ONE WHERE SHE DEFENDS HER OPPONENTS MOVES.

A PRO, WHEN HE LOOKS AT THE BOARD, CAN READ DOZENS OF MOVES AHEAD AND SEE A CHANGE COMING. HE MIGHT THINK TO HIMSELF, "IF I DO THAT, THEN THIS, THEN THIS, THEN THE OPPONENT SHOULD MAKE THIS MOVE. IF HE MAKES THAT MOVE THEN I'LL HAVE A CLEAR ADVANTAGE, HOWEVER, IF HE PLAYS A DIFFERENT MOVE THEN I'LL BE IN TROUBLE " AND SO ON. SHION, AS OF YET, DOESN'T USE UNREASONABLE ATTACKS OR BLUFF TYPE ATTACKS. HOWEVER, HER OPPONENT AYUMI, WITH A VIOLENT KIFUU IS THE TYPE WHO ALL OR NOTHING, ATTACKS WITHOUT HESITATION.

SHION, ON A BOARD LITTERED WITH AYUMI'S TRAPS WHICH HAD HER AT A SLIGHT DISADVANTAGE (FIGURE 2), PLAYED THE MOVE BLACK +B-6B WHICH WHILE UNFAVORABLE HAS THE EFFECT OF PRESSING A BATTLE. HAD AYUMI CAPTURED THIS PROMOTED BISHOP SHE WOULD STILL HAVE BEEN SUPERIOR, BUT INSTEAD, SHE PLAYED A STRONG MOVE WHICH DESTROYED SHION'S MOMENTUM. SHION CARELESSLY, NEVER SAW THIS MOVE COMING. I INVITE ALL OF YOU READERS OUT THERE TO CONSIDER WHAT THIS MOVE MIGHT BE.

DEFEND AND WIN, ATTACK AND WIN. AYUMI POSESSES A KIFUU IN WHICH, NO MATTER WHAT THE SITUATION SHE FIGHTS TO THE END. IN ADDITION, SOME KISHI EVEN SAY THAT PLAYERS WITH A RUTHLESS PERSONALITY PLAY STRONGER SHOGI. WHATEVER THE CASE MAY BE, THE MOVE THAT AYUMI USED TO BRING DOWN SHION WAS WHITE +L-6G.

ギッ…

AFTERNOON
KC360

しおんの王

The Flowers of Hana

1

原作 かとりまさる
漫画 安藤慈朗

しおんの王 1

原作 かとりまさる
漫画 安藤慈朗

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講談社 定価：本体543円（税別）

惨劇の夜、その少女だけ無事だった
心の傷は形を変え少女を勝負の世
真実を本当の強さを盤面に捜しながら
可憐な少女棋士たちが戦いの人生に

しおんの王

The Flowers of Hana

私は一度、殺された。

かとりまさる
安藤慈朗

生きていくため、
少女が手にしたもの、
それが将棋。
7年後、生まれも育ちも違う
3人の少女が出会う。
それぞれの目的を胸に、
いま将棋界に鮮烈な花が咲く！

講談社

『しおんの王』主な登場人物

幼い頃に両親を殺害されたショックで言葉を失う。棋士である安岡家の養女になる。女流棋士を目指す11歳

斬新でなりふりかまわぬ攻撃的な将棋を指す。女流棋士昇級をかけたリーグ戦で紫音の前に立ちふさがる。その正体は……？

女流初段。冷静沈着な大人の将棋を指す。棋士としては紫音や歩の先輩になる。現名人・羽仁との関係は……？

豪華付録にも自信あり！
「しおんの王」はじめ、精選漫画ラインナップが連載中の アフタヌーン は、毎月25日発売です。

しおんの王

The Flowers of Hard Blood

1

原作 かとりまさる
漫画 安藤慈朗

Story : KATORI MASARU × Art : ANDO JIRO
AFTERNOON KC

AFTERNOON
KC360

しおんの王

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真実を本当の強さを盤面に捜しながら
可憐な少女棋士たちが戦いの人生に身を投ず！

はなし

話

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http://www.hanashi.org
Presents

しおんの王

Shion no Ou

Scans: Druid
T/L: Druid
Edits: Kiru

第一手 紫音の道。 p001
第二手 克己心。 p057
第三手 冷たい一手。 p089
第四手 秘密の駒音。 p123
第五手 なみだの駒音。 p153
第六手 王の謎。 p189

しおんの王

The Flowers of Hard Blood

Story : KATORI MASARU × Art . ANDO JIRO

AFTERNOON KC

Cover Design TADASHI HISAMOCHI (hive)

SECOND MOVE

SELF DENIAL

Kamizmo
EXCUSE ME

OH WHAT THE HELL..
I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE THE FIRST APPRENTICESHIP REQUEST SO I WOKE UP AT NOON, BUT..
IT'S A GIRL.

JUST COME IN
IT'S BEEN 5 YEARS SINCE I'VE LET A GIRL INTO MY ROOM EVER SINCE MY WIFE DIED.
I KNOW, I'LL HAVE YOU CLEAN THE PLACE WHILE YOU'RE AT IT!
EH ...

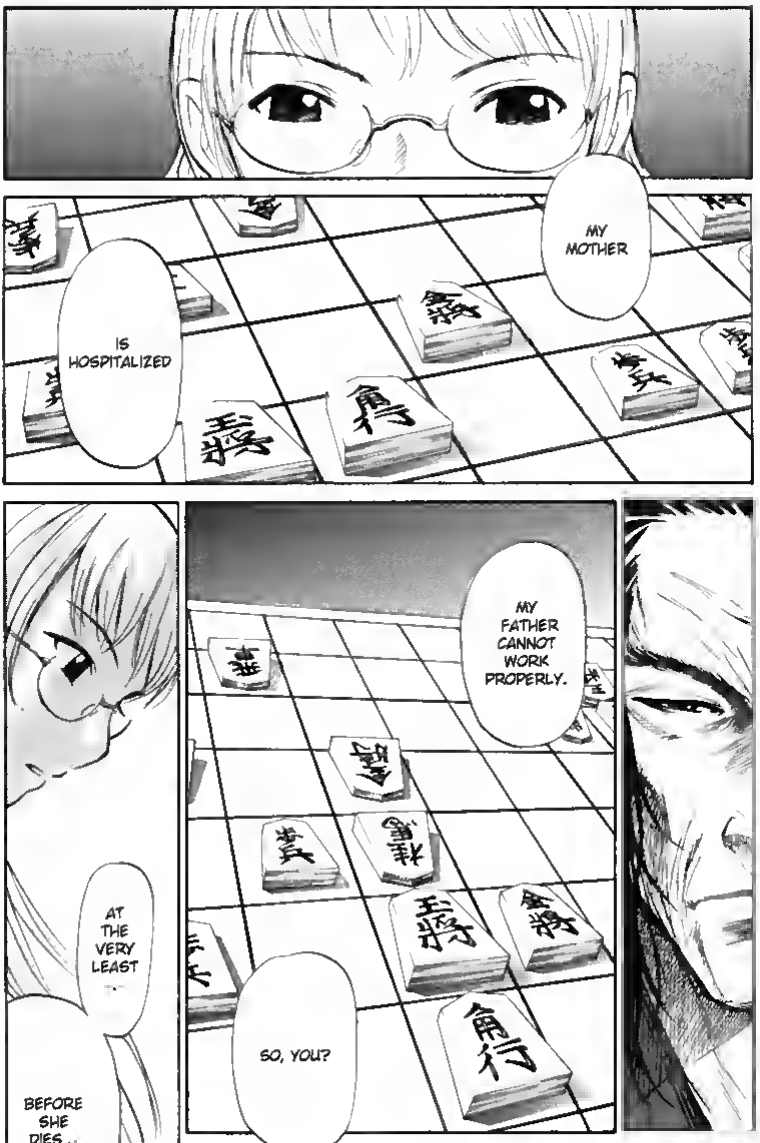
SO... WHY MY PLACE?
IF YOU WANT TO BE A KISHI, THERE ARE LOTS OF GRANDER TEACHERS.
PERSONALITY AND SHOUGI ARE DIFFERENT
.....
BURP
DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE THAT?
WHAT-EVER ...
WHAT MATCH?
KAKUOCHI,* PLEASE
*CORNER HANDICAP

DO YOU LIKE SHOUGI?
IN THE SHOUGI WORLD, TEACHERS ARE LIKE "CARE-TAKERS."
ONLY THOSE WHOSE SHOUGI ABILITIES HAVE BEEN ACKNOW-LEDGED BY A MASTER
ARE ALLOWED TO CHALLENGE THE HARSH WORLD OF THE PROFESSIONALS
I HATE IT.
IF SO... WHY DO YOU WISH TO BECOME A KISHI?
WHAT APPEARS IN THE MIRROR IS YOUR TRUE SHAPE
HN..
SHOUGI IS A MIRROR.

FOR MONEY.

MONEY...

I'M AWARE THAT PRIZE MONEY IN THE JOURYUU IS MINIMAL
BUT FOR ME IT IS ALOT.
A GIRL OF 15 SHOULD HAVE EASIER WAYS TO MAKE MONEY
I LACK THE CONFIDENCE
IS IT REALLY POSSIBLE TO PLAY SHOUGI SERIOUSLY
FOR SOMETHING LIKE THAT..
I CAN
BUT WITH THIS
YOU HAVE CONFIDENCE?
I DOUBT YOU JUST NEED MONEY TO PLAY AROUND WITH...
I DO.

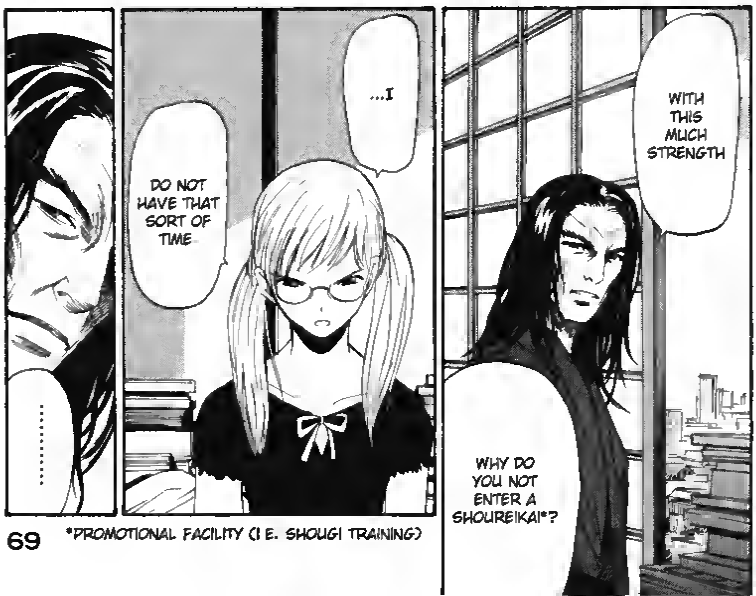

MY MOTHER
IS HOSPITALIZED
MY FATHER CANNOT WORK PROPERLY.
SO, YOU?
AT THE VERY LEAST ..
BEFORE SHE DIES ..

WHAT CAN WE, AS SHOUGI PLAYERS, DO BEFORE THOSE WHO ARE GOING TO DIE .
WE CAN MAKE MONEY!
THAT'S RIGHT.. THAT'S ALL THERE IS.
SILVER TAKES-!?

T/L NOTE: THIS REPRESENTS HER THINKING MANY MOVES AHEAD

*FIERCE GOD
I WON...
EVEN IF IT'S A CORNER HANDICAP
AGAINST THAT "KIJIN"
AH!
NO! ON PURPOSE-?

THE MOMENT YOU NOTICED YOUR MISTAKE ....
YOUR EYES REVERTED TO THOSE OF A BOY.
BRAT.
ゴクリ...



*PROMOTIONAL FACILITY (I.E. SHOUGI TRAINING)

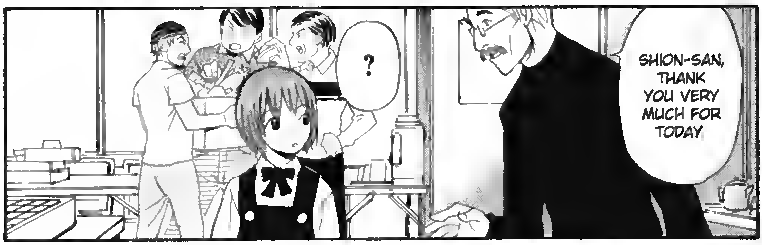
TWO YEARS-
THAT'S PROBABLY THE LIMIT.
GET AS MUCH MONEY AS YOU CAN IN THAT TIME.
IT'LL BE INTERESTING FOR ME TO WATCH, TOO.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
HOW-EVER!
NO MATTER HOW STRONG..
NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF KISHI YOU ENCOUNTER...
YOU MUST CONTINUE TO PLAY SHOUGI FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF MONEY.

WHEN YOU FORGET THAT...
YOU ARE THE ONE WHO WILL BECOME UNHAPPY.
歩兵
王将
UH...
I'VE L...

*T/L NOTE. IN MANGA, SOMETIMES KANJI IS USED TO REPRESENT MEANING AND FURIGANA (SMALL KANA PLACED NEXT TO THE KANJI) USED TO REPRESENT THE WORD THAT THE CHARACTER IS ACTUALLY SAYING. HERE AYUMI SAYS THE WORD MEANING "HERE" BUT THE KANJI IS "JORYUU."

Today at 2 PM
Hisatani Tetsu 3 dan
Yasuoka Shion 2 kyuu
Will be holding instructional matches today
3F
SHOGI
CLUB
THIS ATTACK WAS A BIT TOO RECKLESS
CONSEQUENTLY, YOUR OWN DEFENSE WAS MINIMAL.
YOU'RE RIGHT, WHEN I SEE AN OPENING I GET SO HAPPY THAT I GET CARRRIED AWAY
I hope Shion is ok
instructional matches are a first for her
!?

SHION-CHAN LIKES CREAM PUFFS!
SHION-CHAN, DO YOU LIKE DORAYAKI OR DAIKUFUU? I HAVE SOME SOUHEI, TOO.
SHION-CHAN, THESE ARE OUR VEGETABLES! TAKE SOME HOME!!


?
SHION-SAN, THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR TODAY.

I had a lot of fun, too can I come again?
THANKS TO THAT, I HAD A VERY ENJOYABLE TIME
I CAME TODAY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A WHILE BECAUSE I WANTED TO MEET YOU.
MY BODY BROKE DOWN HALF A YEAR AGO, AND I COULD HARDLY WALK ANYWHERE, BUT

IT LOOKS LIKE EVERYONE IS HAVING FUN.
OH WELL..
WE'LL HAVE TO PRACTICE HARD BEFORE SHION-CHAN COMES THE NEXT TIME.
OF COURSE! IF YOU DO THEN I'LL EVEN DRAG TAKAGI JII-SAN* OVER HERE AGAIN.
WITH SHION?
NO, I'D LIKE TO PLAY A MATCH AGAINST YASHOKA-SAN.
UM..
AN INSTRUCTIONAL MATCH?
WHAT SHOULD WE DO ABOUT A HANDICAP... WHAT KIND?
YES... OF COURSE, WITH NO HANDICAP.

*T/L NOTE: FOR THOSE WHO DON'T KNOW, "JII-SAN" MEANS GRANDFATHER OR ANYONE OF GRANDFATHERLY AGE.

HISATANI-KUN, IS SHION-CHAN ALRIGHT?
WHAT?

HIS NICKNAME IS "JORYUU CRUSHER."

THAT GUY, HE'S A PRETTY FAMOUS, STRONG AMATEUR AROUND HERE...
BUT HE HAS A HORRIBLE PERSONALITY.

WHEN HE DEFEATS A YOUNG JORYUU KISHI LIKE SHION-CHAN WITH NO HANDICAP...
HE CELEBRATES BY SCATTERING THE MATCH RECORD ALL OVER THE PLACE.
BUT THAT'S ..!
Hehe
The famed Ryuoujo kishi, Yasuoka Shion
there's not much better in terms of prey than this
should I attack her outright, or should I toy with her
well either way it'll be fun for me.
WELL THEN, SHION-CHA.. I MEAN, SHION-SENSEI, YOROSHIKU ONE..

Yoroshiku
Onegaishimasu.
O..
ONEGAISHIMASU
ソ//
ク//

I SEE... WHETHER I WORRY ABOUT YOU OR NOT...
YOU'RE ALREADY
A KISHI.

……

パタン
……？

HOW WAS IT SHION?
THESE THINGS ARE A KISHI'S JOB, TOO.
THAT'S GOOD, THEN
It was a lot of fun! Everyone was very kind

I THOUGHT I'D WALK YOU HOME THOUGH...
HN?
This is fine
There's no malice intended in those words either
Hurry up and go home and study shougi
I'LL LEAVE THEM A MESSAGE, SO GET HOME SAFELY!
VEGETABLES, EH? THANKS, I'LL TAKE THEM
Half

GOSH, ERI'S LATE..
I TOLD HER MY MATCH ENDS BY SUNSET...
.....
ガ

Don't forget
Only play for the money
KASHI
I KNOW THAT!
SHIT.
?

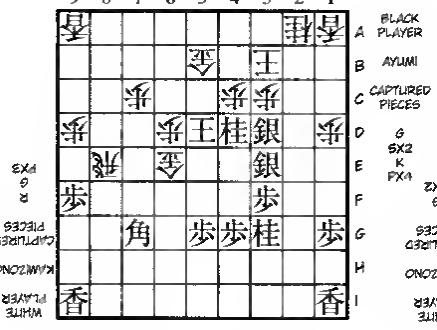
!?
STOP!!

TSK!
WAIT!
SECOND MOVE
E
N
D

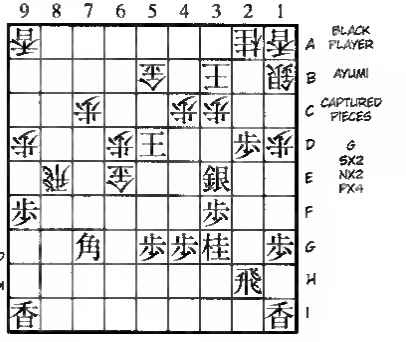
MATCH CHECK!

DIAGRAMS AND COMMENTARY BY KATORI MASARU

(FIGURE 2 - UNTIL BLACK N-4D)



(FIGURE 1 - UNTIL WHITE R-8E)



A MASTER IS TRULY A MASTER. SAITOU AYUMI'S APPRENTICE ENTRY MATCH!

KAMIZONO 8-DAN, A PRO, ISN'T GOING TO GO FULL-STRENGTH WHEN MONEY ISN'T ON THE LINE. IN FIGURE 1, HE IS TESTING SAITOU AYUMI'S ABILITIES BY PLAYING WHITE R-8E. THERE WERE OTHER PLAYS HE COULD HAVE MADE, BUT HE WANTED TO SEE IF AYUMI COULD ATTACK KAMIZONO'S KING. WITH THE FIRST FIGURE, AYUMI RE-READ THE BOARD TO MAKE SURE HE WASN'T MIS-READING, AND RATHER QUICKLY PLAYED BLACK P-2C!

THE MATCH PROGRESSES AS FOLLOWS, WHITE TAKES WITH SILVER, BLACK TAKES WITH CHARIOT, WHITE TAKES WITH KING, BLACK MOVES S-3D, WHITE MOVES K-3B, BLACK MOVES R-4D (FIGURE 2), AT WHICH POINT KAMIZONO RESIGNS.

IF SHE COULDN'T YOSE (ATTACK THE KING), KAMIZONO 8-DAN HAD NO INTENTION OF MAKING AYUMI HIS DISCIPLE.

ENTERING HIGH SCHOOL, RATHER THAN LEARNING MATHEMATICS, LEARNING HOW TO PLAY EVEN ONE MORE HAND THAN THE OPPONENT, IS THE WORLD OF SHOUGI. IN THE CASE OF A GIRL, IT IS FAR EASIER TO BECOME A MEIJIN THAN A BOY, WITH A STRONG ONE BEING ABLE TO CLAIM IN 2 YEARS. IT'S QUITE EASY IF YOU CAN WIN OTHER TOURNAMENT MATCHES AS WELL AS TITLE MATCHES. HOWEVER, THIS IS IN THE CASE OF THE ULTIMATE JORYUU. FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT WIN, EVEN IF ONE BECOMES A PRO, THE ANNUAL INCOME OF A PRO IS SEVERAL TEN-THOUSAND YEN (THAT'S SEVERAL HUNDRED DOLLARS), SO MAKING A LIVING SOLELY ON MATCHES IS DIFFICULT.

A COLD EYE, THE ABILITY TO MAKE QUICK AND CORRECT DECISIONS. THAT PLUS THE WILLINGNESS TO COME FORTH AND SAY ONE IS PLAYING SHOUGI FOR MONEY HAD AYUMI RATED HIGHLY BY KAMIZONO.

THIS TIME, KAMIZONO AND AYUMI ARE PLAYING KAKUOCHI. KAKUOCHI IS LIKE MAKING A BOXER FIGHT WITHOUT HIS LEFT HAND. REGARDLESS, IN ORDER TO BECOME A PRO, ONE MUST BE VERY GOOD, OR WINNING IS IMPOSSIBLE. THIS IS THE CASE EVEN FOR AYUMI. IN DIAGRAM 2, IF YOU THINK TO YOURSELF, "IF THE WHITE PAWN TOOK THE BLACK ROOK-4D, IT'S NOT GOING TO CAPTURE THE KING!", THEN TAKE A LOOK AT AYUMI'S CAPTURED PIECES AND TRY TO CAPTURE IT IN YOUR HEAD.

A Hanashi/TJo project
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trans: Sekihoutai
edits: cara
QC: DruidxEFD
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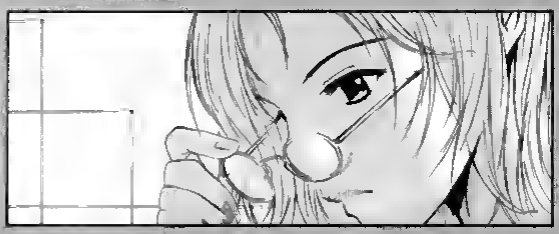


A Cold Move

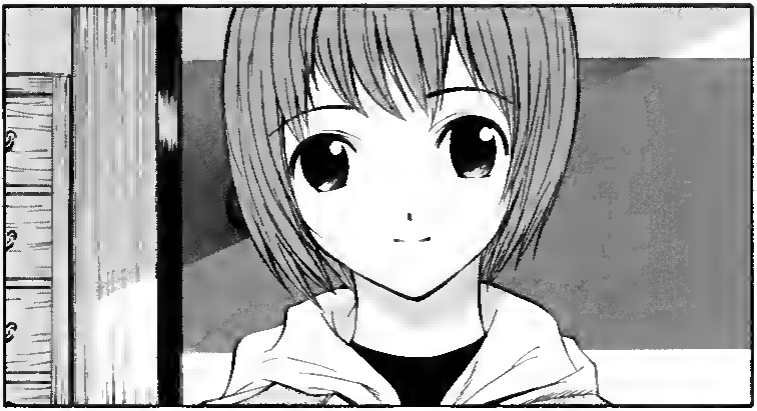
DEFINITELY AN UNUSUAL SIGHT.
Surreal.
WHEN WAS THIS CASE?
AT THE MURDER SCENE
A SHOGI BOARD WITH THE PIECES SYSTEMATICALLY LINED UP...
NEWSPAPER HEADLINE: THE CAREER OF THE YOUNGEST JORYU KISHI BEGINS!!
SEVEN YEARS...
NO, EIGHT YEARS AGO.

WAS THE PERP CAUGHT RIGHT AWAY?
THE MOTIVE WAS A GRUDGE, I ASSUME.
EVERY ANGLE WE'VE TAKEN HAS TURNED UP NOTHING.
A GRUDGE, THEFT, A PASSING CRIME...
AND THIS GIRL?
IT'S STILL UNSOLVED.
THE DAUGHTER OF THE VICTIMS AND THE LONE SURVIVOR.

IF SHE'S THIS OLD THEN SHE MUST HAVE WITNESSED SOMETHING.
WHAT ABOUT AN INTERRI-G ATION?
IN A POOL OF BLOOD, LYING NEXT TO HER SLAUGHTERED PARENTS, SHE WAS SHIELDED FROM HARM...

THAT WOULD BE POINTLESS.

ALONG WITH HER PARENTS
THIS GIRL LOST HER VOICE



HMMM...

UNTIL THE MIDDLEGAME, I THOUGHT I WAS PLAYING BETTER THAN YOU, BUT...
I'VE LOST.
ペコリ
SFX: PEKORI
SO THE LOSING MOVE WAS WHITE G-3D?
パチ!!
SFX: PACHI
I LET DOWN MY GUARD...
SFX: NIKO NIKO = SMILE
SFX: HYOI HYOI
Even earlier than that

This move was when I clearly felt I gained the advantage
SFX: PACHI
I SEE.
AT THE TIME I THOUGHT THE SITUATION WAS STILL RATHER COMPLEX, BUT...
YOU'VE BECOME STRONG, HAVEN'T YOU, SHION.
YOUR MOVES HAVE GAINED MORE DEPTH

Really?

YES.
REALLY.

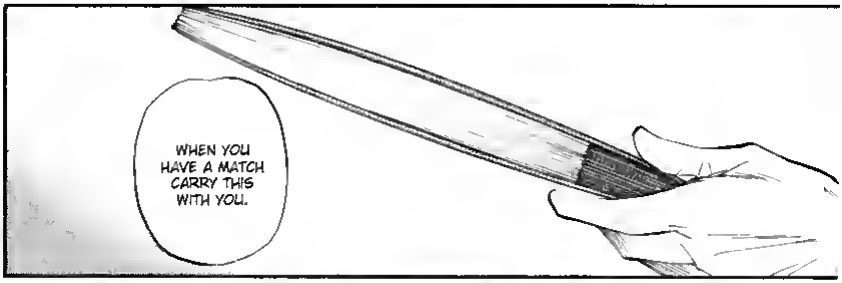
IT'S THE TRUTH, KAA-SAN!
IT'S NOT THAT I'VE GOTTEN WEAK, IT'S THAT SHION HAS BECOME STRONG!
HAI, HAI.

IT'S ALMOST NOON, SO WHEN YOU'RE DONE EXAMINING YOUR MATCH COME ON DOWN, OKAY
YOU NEED TO WORK EVEN HARDER
AND CAPTURE AN IMPRESSIVE TITLE OR TWO!
HMMPH
It was a strange game
It wasn't like I played any bad moves or anything
but despite that at some point things formed into the shape she wanted
Banana!

So this is Shion's shogi?
SHION
YOU'VE ALREADY PLAYED QUITE A FEW MATCHES SINCE YOU TURNED PRO, RIGHT?
HOW HAS IT BEEN? ANYTHING DIFFERENT THAN BEFORE?

FUN...EH?
THAT'S JUST LIKE YOU I SUPPOSE.
It's been fun.
BUT YOU KNOW,
THERE ARE BATTLES WHERE JUST PLAYING FOR FUN WON'T CUT IT.
ON THE PROFESSIONAL STAGE, THERE IS AN INSTANT WHERE IN ORDER TO WIN YOU MUST HATE YOUR OPPONENT.
THE DAY WILL COME WHEN YOU WILL ALSO UNDERSTAND THIS, SHION

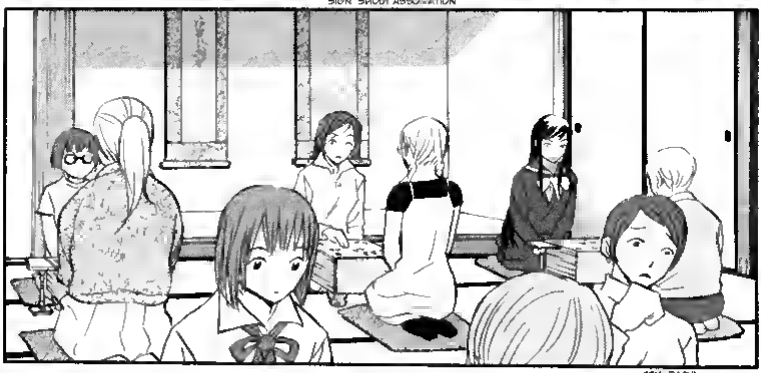
THAT'S RIGHT, THAT TOURNAMENT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT STARTS NEXT WEEK, DOESN'T IT? "THE JORYUU NEW AND OLD CROWN TOURNAMENT"...
THAT WILL BE YOUR FIRST LARGE BATTLE


WHEN YOU HAVE A MATCH CARRY THIS WITH YOU.

I'LL LET YOU BORROW IT.
YOU KNOW, THIS FAN
IS THE FAN I USED WHEN I WON AGAINST HANI-MEIJIN.
SFX. UNSHO UNSHO - NERVOUSLY HOLDING IT

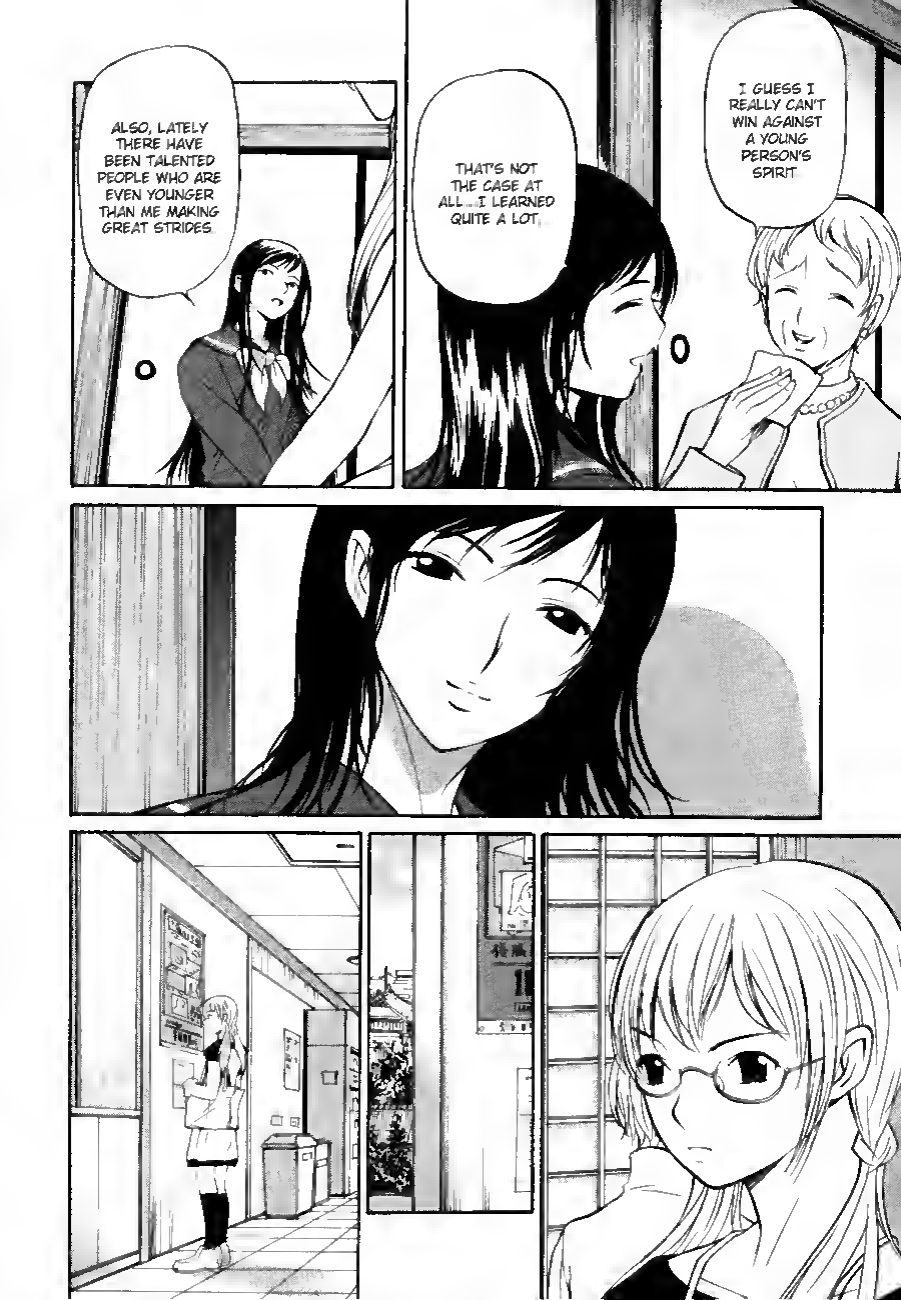
*TL NOTE: HEART AND SOUL INTO ONE STROKE (AS IN A BRUSH STROKE). THE LARGE KANJI IN THE MIDDLE MEANS "DREAM"

SIGN SHOGI ASSOCIATION



SFX PACHI

SFX
CHIRA -
SIDELONG
GLANCE
I'VE
LOST.
THANK YOU
VERY MUCH.
...

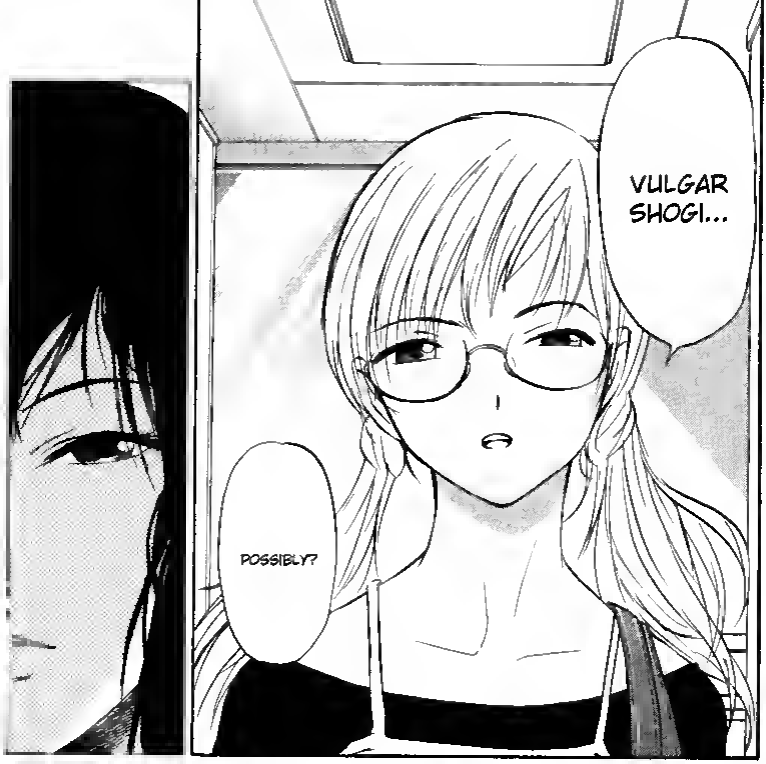

I GUESS I REALLY CAN'T WIN AGAINST A YOUNG PERSON'S SPIRIT.
THAT'S NOT THE CASE AT ALL...I LEARNED QUITE A LOT.
ALSO, LATELY THERE HAVE BEEN TALENTED PEOPLE WHO ARE EVEN YOUNGER THAN ME MAKING GREAT STRIDES.

Do I have no choice but to keep on winning league matches and advance one step at a time ?
It's irritating
The prize for this tournament is a million yen
女流 新旧王冠戦
POSTER JORYUU NEW AND OLD CROWN TOURNAMENT
If I were to win it all of a sudden it would stand out too much, but letting a million yen that's right under my nose get away would be disappointing
The current champion Kawa Setsuko and Yasuoka Shion will be there trying to win that money and also
YOU WON NICELY AGAIN TODAY

YOU SEEM TO BE DOING QUITE WELL, SAITOU AYUMI-SAN
YOU CRUSHED THAT 2 DAN OPPONENT.
IN TERMS OF ACTUAL STRENGTH YOU MIGHT ALREADY BE CONSIDERED TOP-CLASS.

THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE WANTED TO ASK YOU FOR A WHILE.
WHERE DID YOU STUDY SHOGI?
SFX: FIKU
I'VE INVESTIGATED QUITE A BIT, HOWEVER I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO FIND ANY SORT OF RECORD PRIOR TO YOUR BECOMING AN APPRENTICE OF KAMIZONO-SENSEI

Nikaidou Saori
So she's the one that I need to defeat the most
I NEVER PARTICIPATED IN A MAJOR ASSOCIATION
SO THAT MIGHT BE WHY YOU CAN'T FIND ANYTHING.
I LEARNED IN A LOCAL DOJO UNDER MY FATHER
ARA! IN A TOWN DOJO.
IT'S NO WONDER THAT YOUR KIFUU...
HOW SHOULD I SAY IT, IT'S RATHER UNFAMILIAR TO ME


VULGAR SHOGI...
POSSIBLY?

THAT'S RIGHT, UNLIKE ME YOU'RE

IT'S VERY WAR-LIKE
I LIKE YOUR SHOGI, EVEN THOUGH IT'S STILL DEVELOPING.
I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT.

EH?
KIND.
I WOULD NEVER USE...
EVEN IN A MATCH AGAINST A POOR EXCUSE FOR A HIGHLY RANKED PLAYER THAT MAKES AMATEURISH MOVES WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH,
YOU WENT AHEAD AND PLAYED IN A WAY THAT WOULD ALLOW HER TO RESIGN.
THAT SORT OF "KIND" SHOGI.

OTOU-SAN,
IS SHION STILL BUSY STUDYING SHOGI?

I TOLD HER TO COME HOME BEFORE IT GETS DARK
IF YOU'RE WORRIED THEN WHY NOT MESSAGE* HER?
SHE SAID SHE WAS GOING TO THE PARK SHE USUALLY VISITS.
YOU LET HER GO BY HERSELF?!
EVEN AFTER WHAT HAPPENED?
T/L NOTE: BY CELL PHONE I'M ASSUMING
I KNOW BUT...
IF EVEN WE GET ALL NERVOUS THEN HOW DO YOU THINK SHE'D FEEL?
FROM THAT DETECTIVE, YOKOHAMA-SAN
OH, THE GUY FROM BACK THEN.
HAVE YOU BEEN CONTACTED AT ALL BY THE POLICE SINCE THEN?
HE SAID THAT IT MIGHT BE A STALKER AND THAT WE SHOULD MAKE SURE THAT SHE'S SAFE ON A REGULAR BASIS

IT SEEMS THEY'RE ALSO INVESTIGATING WHETHER THAT PICTURE THAT WAS TAKEN IS BEING CIRCULATED ON THE INTERNET.
THEY DON'T HAVE ANY LEADS ON WHO DID IT?
THEY CAN'T FIND THE BOY WHO SAVED HER.
AND THERE WEREN'T ANY OTHER EYE-WITNESSES.
キュッ!!
SFX: KYU!
HE SAID THERE'S MOST LIKELY NO CONNECTION WITH WHAT HAPPENED EIGHT YEARS AGO.
BUT I'M STILL WORRIED
WAS IT..

?
WHY WORRY ABOUT IT NOW.
REALLY A GOOD IDEA FOR HER TO BECOME A KISHI, I WONDER?
SHION WAS...
CHOSEN BY SHOGI.
I'm sorry. I must track you for someone else
SFX: FICHA
...I CAN'T THINK ABOUT IT LIKE THAT.

SFX: GORO GORO GORO ~ CLOUDS GETTING OMINOUS

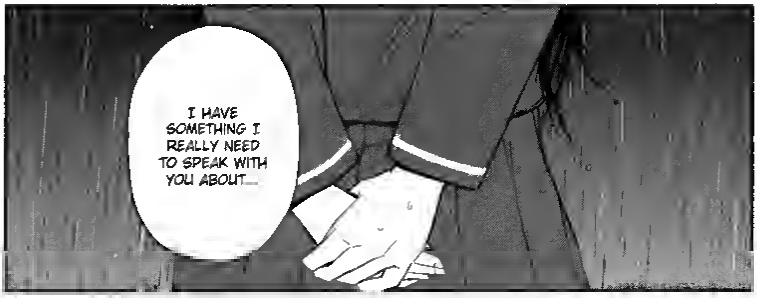
SFX. POTSU POTSU

...I'M ALSO HER FATHER

SFX. ZAAAAA

SFX: PIPON= DOORBELL/INTERCOM

THIS IS A PRIVATE ROOM HOW DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT IT?
DID YOU USE YOUR FATHER'S CONNECTIONS AGAIN?
EXCUSE ME FOR BOTHERING YOU SUDDENLY AT NIGHT.
IT'S SAORI...



T/L NOTE APPARENTLY THEY'RE BOTH APPRENTICES UNDER THE SAME MASTER.

T/L NOTE: NII IS A SUFFIX MEANING BROTHER. SINCE THEY ARE FELLOW APPRENTICES THEY HAVE SOMEWHAT OF A BROTHER-SISTER RELATIONSHIP

HA HA HA HA
THAT WAS...
PITY, WASN'T IT?
UNTIL TODAY... WHEN I WAS TOLD THE SAME THING
...ARE YOU MORTIFIED?
DO YOU HATE ME?
IF THAT'S THE CASE THEN YOU HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO BECOME STRONGER YOURSELF
THAT IS... THE WORLD OF THE PROS

I BEG YOU... PLEASE TEACH ME IN A MATCH.
...I WANT TO BECOME...
MUCH STRONGER!

Match Check!

Diagrams and Commentary by Katori Masaru

FIGURE 2 – UNTIL BLACK +B–4G

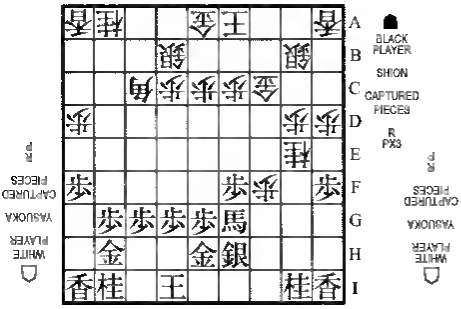
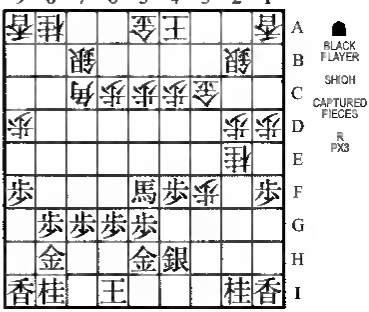


FIGURE 1 - UNTIL WHITE P-3F



Shion, Saori and Ayumi.
The relationship between master and apprentice, parent and child.

In the world of shogi for an apprentice a master is usually a frightening figure If a master tells an apprentice to quit because they have no hope of becoming strong then no matter how much they desire to turn pro they have no choice but to quit What's more since an apprentice rarely gets the chance to learn shogi directly from their master they must become strong on their own

So from that, one can tell that Shion becomes stronger through a parent-child relationship rather than a master-apprentice relationship that is her father Yasuoka 8-dan, teaches her and they both have fun in the process.

In figure 1 Yasuoka 8-dan played the move White P-3f He thought this would cause Shion to attack However Shion followed this with a move with a lot of depth A move with depth is not achieved by thinking only about attacking but rather by calmly defending one's own camp After seeing Shion make her move Black +B-4g Yasuoka realized that she had steadily become strong at shogi A person who can comprehend the implications of Shion's move after
witnessing it is someone with quite a bit of skill

While Shion has Yasuoka 8-dan, Saori was put into a good environment with Hani-meijin as her senior apprentice

The least privileged of the three is Ayumi who has no senior apprentice and is busy working throughout the day However why do you think Ayumi is so strong? Because he has a hungry spirit and goes through so much hardship he possesses a "never say die" mentality that is stronger than the other two

For example during their time as amateurs we can assume that Saori Shion and Ayumi were each taught in various ways Shion learned to move while watching her opponent's condition and steadily win the match Saori learned to give her opponent a chance and to enjoy herself in the process And Ayumi learned to cruelly obliterate her opponent in the fewest number of moves possible Three people, three methods three distinct personalities

With shogi, a person's personality is becomes visible through their moves

As for Shion, she's been through sadness far more severe than what most people experience Whether or not that pain will have a good influence on a match and allow her to grow is something only the God of shogi knows

A Hanashi/Hyo project
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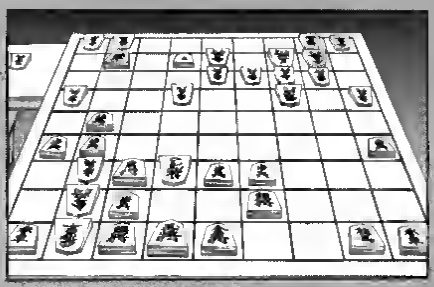

YOU...
WILL FORGET ABOUT WORDS.

FOURTH MOVE

The Secret Sound of the Pieces ○

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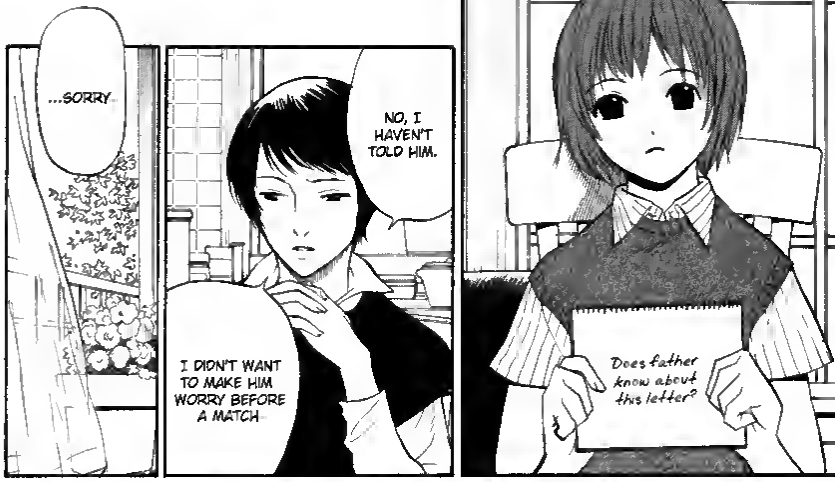
SHION...
お前に王冠は似合わない!!
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS IS?
*THE KING'S CROWN DOESN'T SUIT YOU!!

THERE ARE A LOT OF UGLY THINGS LIKE THIS IN THE PRO'S WORLD
ALTHOUGH I THINK THIS IS JUST A PRANK.
WHEN TOU-SAN* WAS YOUNG, IT WAS PRETTY HORRIBLE.
THE PHONE WOULD RING ALL NIGHT WHEN HE WAS ON A WINNING STREAK!
T/L NOTE: SHINJI AND SACHIKO CALL EACH OTHER "KAA-SAN" AND "TOU-SAN" RESPECTIVELY, WHICH MEANT MOTHER AND FATHER.
THERE HASN'T BEEN A SINGLE PRANK CALL LATELY.
NO, wins either.
HEH
HE'D SAY "I WON'T LOSE TO THIS" AND RESPOND TO THE CALLS STRAIGHT AWAY.
THEN GO TO MATCHES WITH BAGS UNDER HIS EYES.


Does father know about this letter?
NO, I HAVEN'T TOLD HIM.
I DIDN'T WANT TO MAKE HIM WORRY BEFORE A MATCH.
...SORRY.

YOU HAVE AN IMPORTANT TOURNAMENT STARTING TOMORROW TOO.
I'm fine.
SHION...

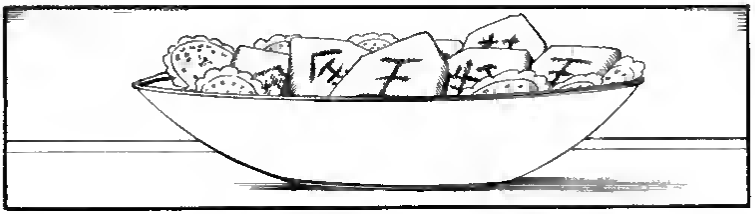
THANK YOU
YOU'RE A STRONG ONE, AREN'T YOU
THAT'S RIGHT
MAYBE I'LL BAKE SOME COOKIES TODAY?
TO CELEBRATE TOU-SAN'S VICTORY.
HMM
CELEBRATE?
PRAY FOR?
Believe!

KACHI
nob: I've lost.
nob: I've lost
sao: Thank you very much
bon: Sao-san,your kifuu changed
nob: You've gotten stronger~ You really got me
tos: It was a great lesson Thank you.
FUU

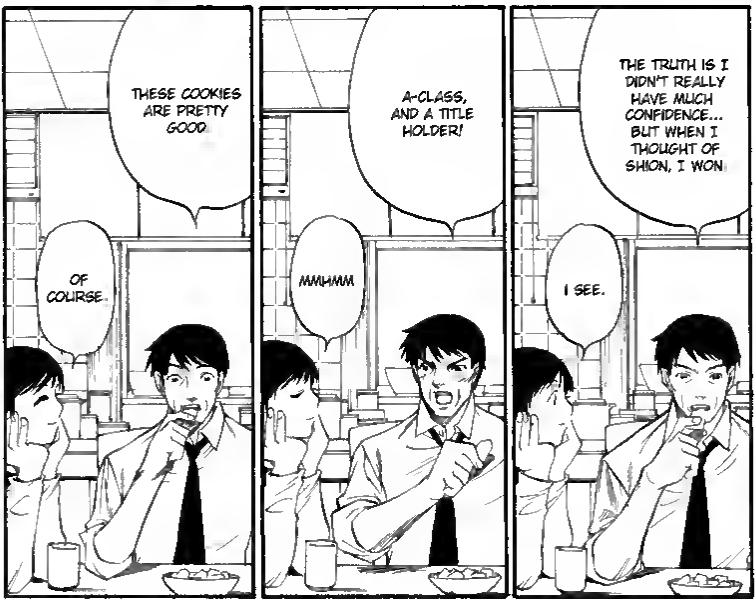
ALRIGHT, LET'S GO AGAIN!
THANKS FOR THE MEAL.
COME AGAIN!
JEFF
WHEN YOU'VE FINISHED CLEANING UP, I WANT YOU TO MAKE A DELIVERY
ALRIGHT.

Good luck in tomorrow's tournament.
Ayumi Fight!
I'm cheering for you in various ways.
PS. I took out one of your rivals.
Just kidding.
ON?
RIVAL?
TIME TO MAKE THOSE DELIVERIES.
DID YOU ASK FOR THE DAY OFF TOMORROW TO GO ON A DATE?
I TOLD YOU TO TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONE DURING WORK
WAH! I'M SORRY!
DATE HUH.

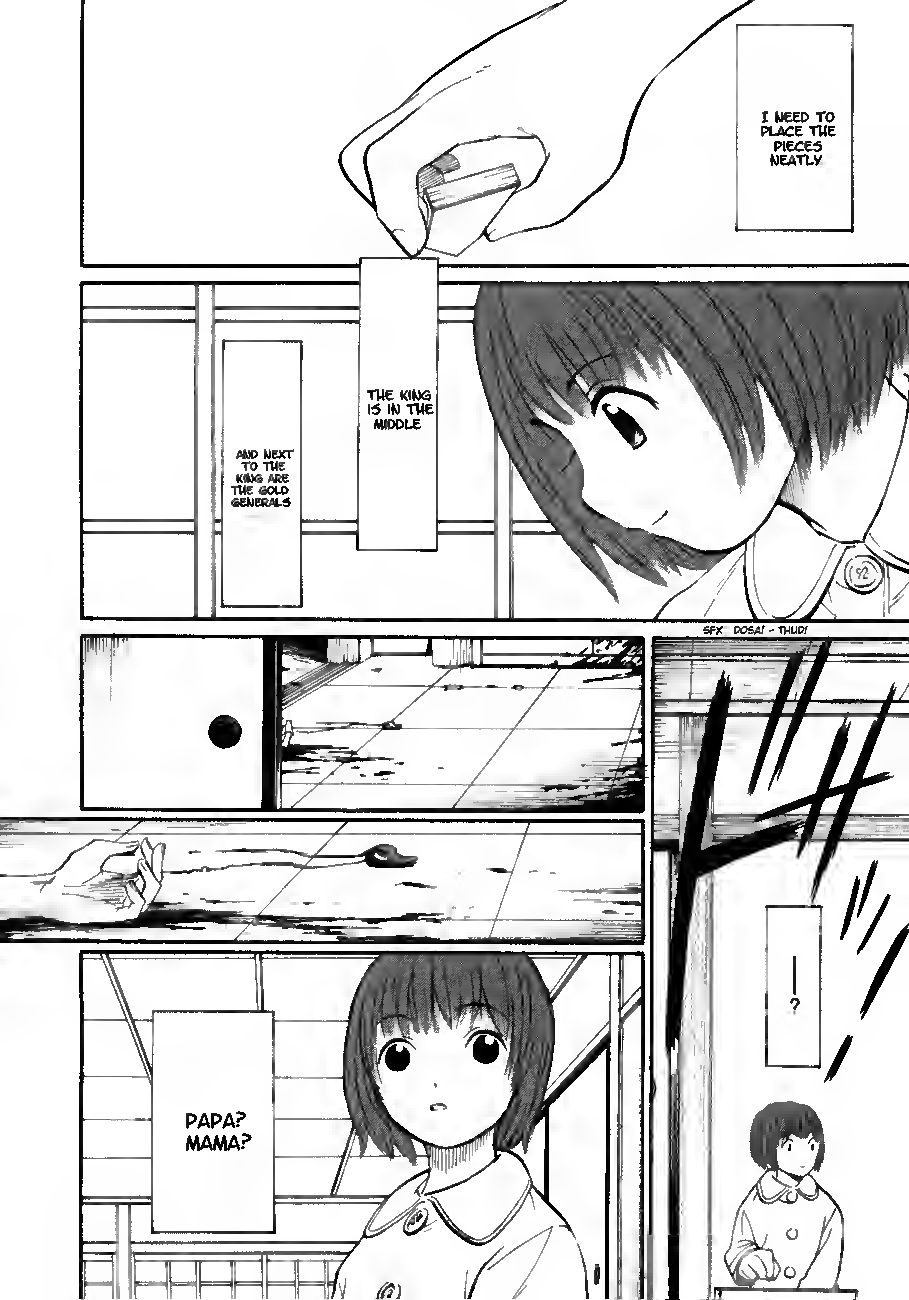
WELCOME HOME, HOW WAS IT?
SACHIKO!
HMM? IF IT'S A MEAL I'VE ALR...
I'D BE PROUD OF TODAY'S SHOGI NO MATTER WHERE I PLAYED
AHHHH, VICTORY, VICTORY!

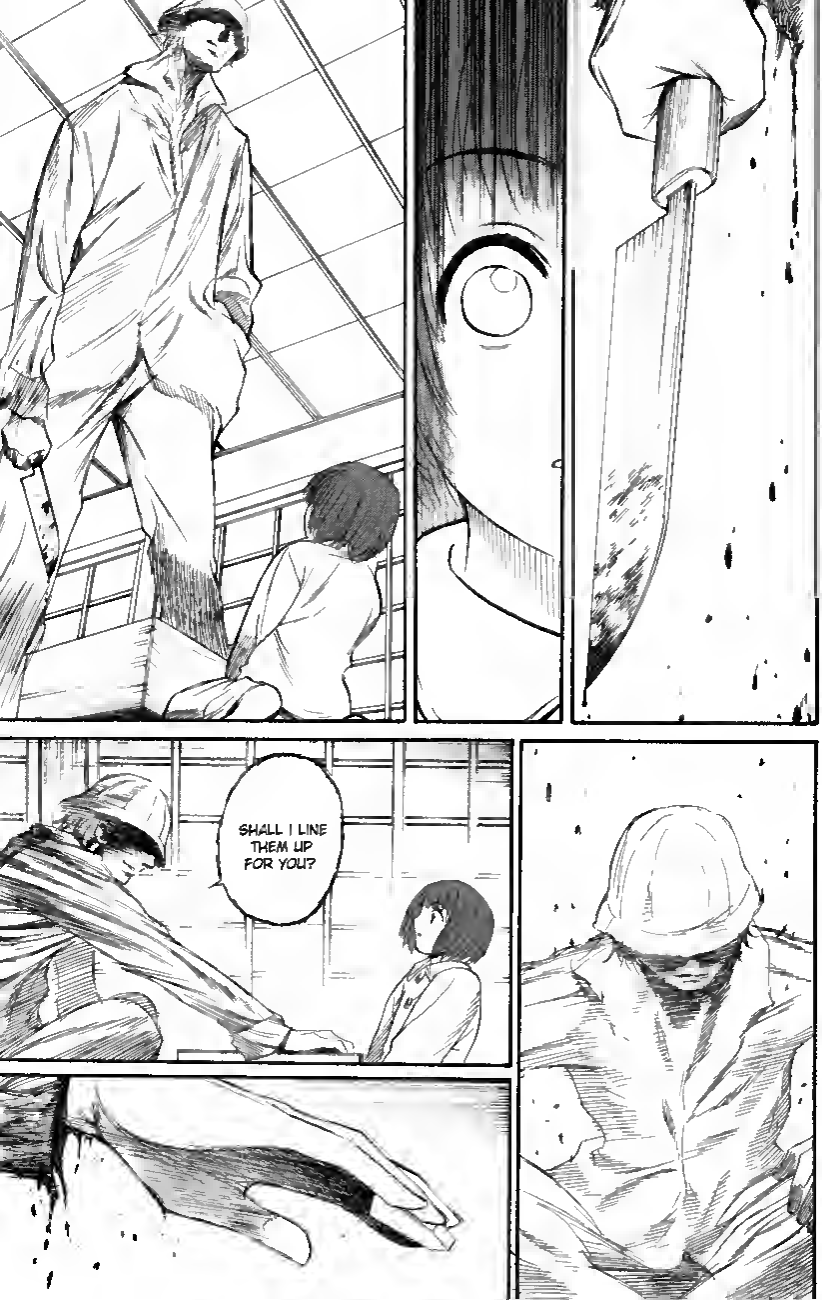


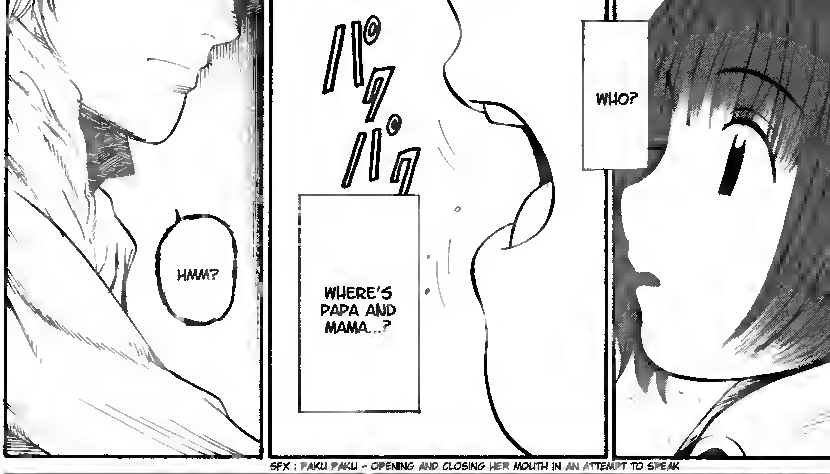
DID SHION BAKE THESE?
THAT'S RIGHT.


THESE COOKIES ARE PRETTY GOOD.
OF COURSE.
A-CLASS, AND A TITLE HOLDER!
MMHMM
THE TRUTH IS I DIDN'T REALLY HAVE MUCH CONFIDENCE... BUT WHEN I THOUGHT OF SHION, I WON.
I SEE.

SHE HAS A BIG CONTEST STARTING TOMORROW TOO YOU KNOW!
LET HER SLEEP PEACEFULLY TONIGHT
"SNIFF
GUSUN"
CAN I SEE HER SLEEPING FACE?
NO!
A BRIGHT-RED ROOM WITHIN A BRIGHT-RED DREAM
IT'S THAT DREAM AGAIN
AHH


I NEED TO PLACE THE PIECES NEATLY
THE KING IS IN THE MIDDLE
AND NEXT TO THE KING ARE THE GOLD GENERALS
SFX: DOSA! - THUD!
!?
PAPA? MAMA?


SHALL I LINE THEM UP FOR YOU?



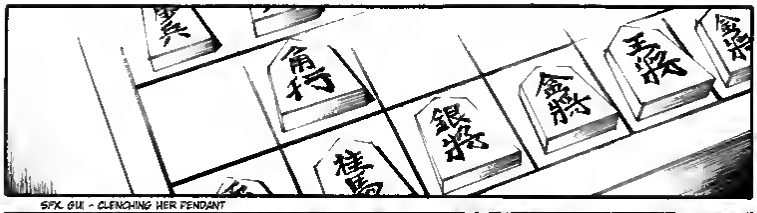
SFX : PAKU PAKU - OPENING AND CLOSING HER MOUTH IN AN ATTEMPT TO SPEAK

SFX: PASHI - PLACING A PIECE

IF YOU WANT TO KEEP ON LIVING...
YOU WILL FORGET ABOUT WORDS.
——!!

THAT WAS ALL THE TRUTH...
PAPA AND MAMA, THAT NIGHT...
HIS FINGER-TIPS THAT WERE ABLE TO PLACE THE PIECES...

THE PERSON WHO KILLED PAPA AND MAMA...
IS THAT WHY I ALSO PLAY SHOGI?
WAS A SHOGI PLAYER.
TO FIND THE SUSPECT

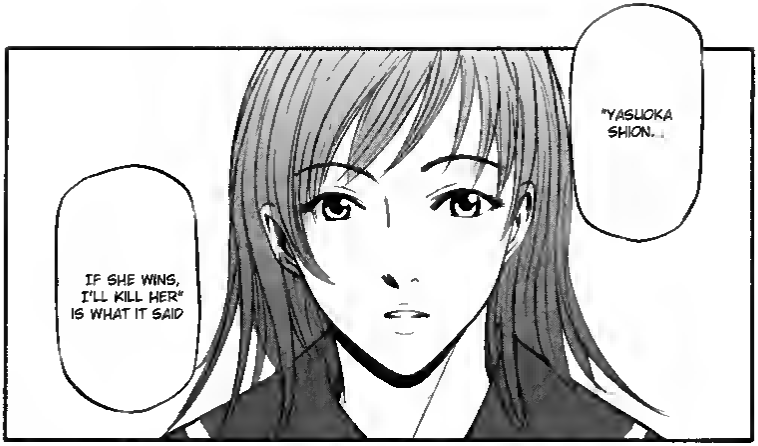


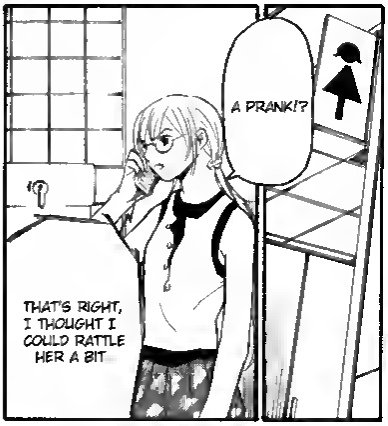
SFX. GUI - CLENCHING HER PENDANT

HMMM...
WHAT DO YOU THINK? IT WAS SENT TO US THIS MORNING
TODAY'S MATCHES
JOGYUU NEW AND OLD CROWN TOURNAMENT
I THINK IT'S JUST A HORRIBLE PRANK BUT...
I'LL KILL HER...
IF SHE WINS..
YASUOKA SHION
Joryuu New and Old Crown Tournament
THERE'S GOING TO BE NORMAL SPECTATORS HERE TODAY, SO I DON'T WANT TO MAKE IT INTO A BIG DEAL
SHALL WE TELL THE POLICE?
THE SPONSOR PROBABLY WOULDN'T BE TOO HAPPY, EITHER

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
NO— JUST A LITTLE PRANK
GOOD MORNING
ANYWAYS, LET'S INCREASE THE SURVEILLANCE AND SEE HOW IT TURNS OUT.
ESPECIALLY AROUND YASUOKA-SAN.
?
OKAY ..
RELAX AND CONCENTRATE ON YOUR MATCH.
PLEASE DON'T WORRY!
GEEZ, SO DANGEROUS

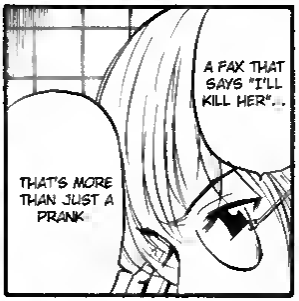
GOOD MORNING.
IF SHE'S GOING TO CAUSE PROBLEMS LIKE THIS, THEN SHE SHOULD JUST BE HELD OUT OF THE TOURNAMENT.
KAWAI JORYUU MEIJIN.
YOU DIDN'T HEAR?
THAT YOUNG PRO... I HEARD THAT A THREATENING LETTER WAS SENT.
EH?
DON'T YOU THINK SO?

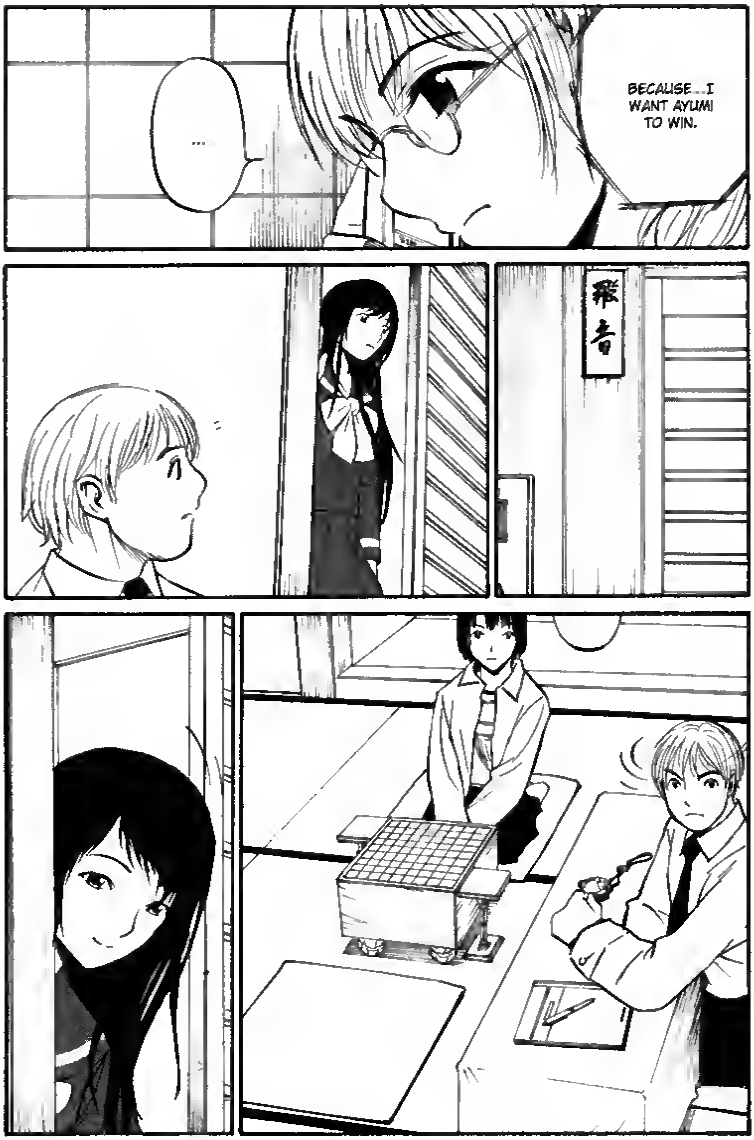

"YASUOKA SHION..
IF SHE WINS, I'LL KILL HER" IS WHAT IT SAID

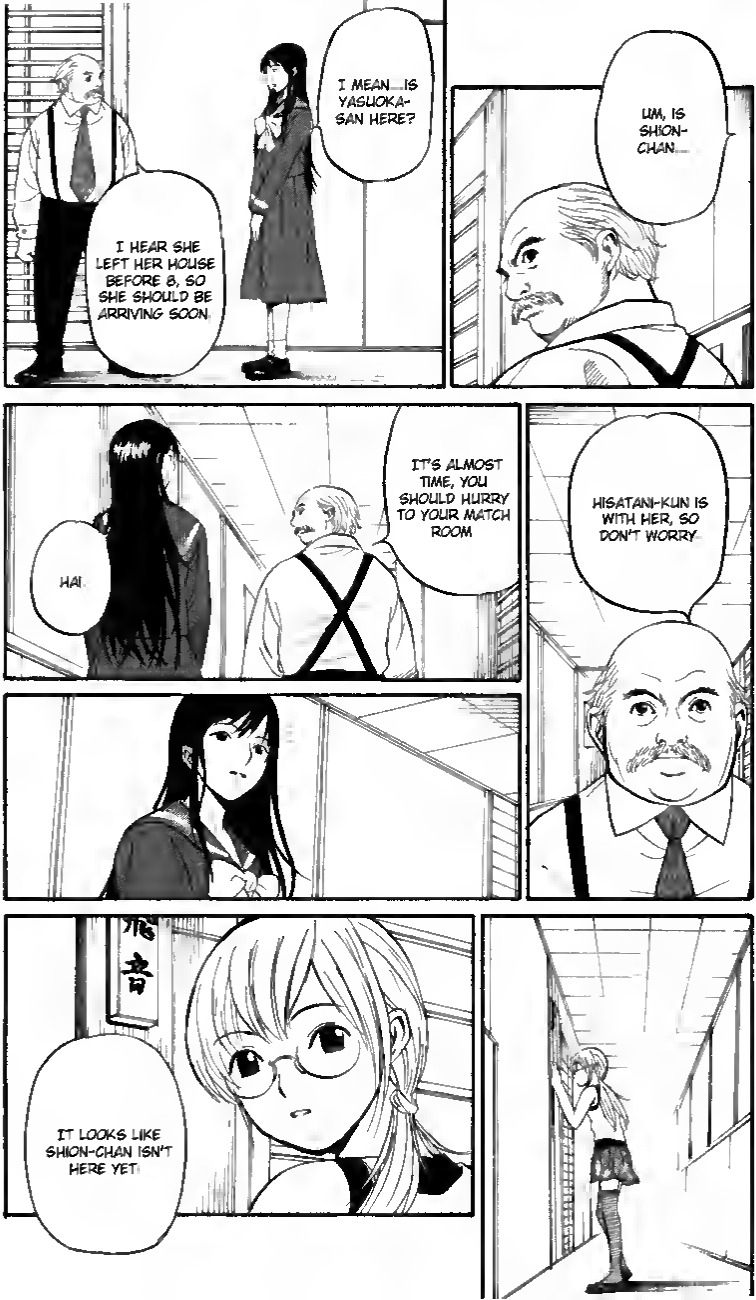

A PRANK!?
THAT'S RIGHT, I THOUGHT I COULD RATTLE HER A BIT.

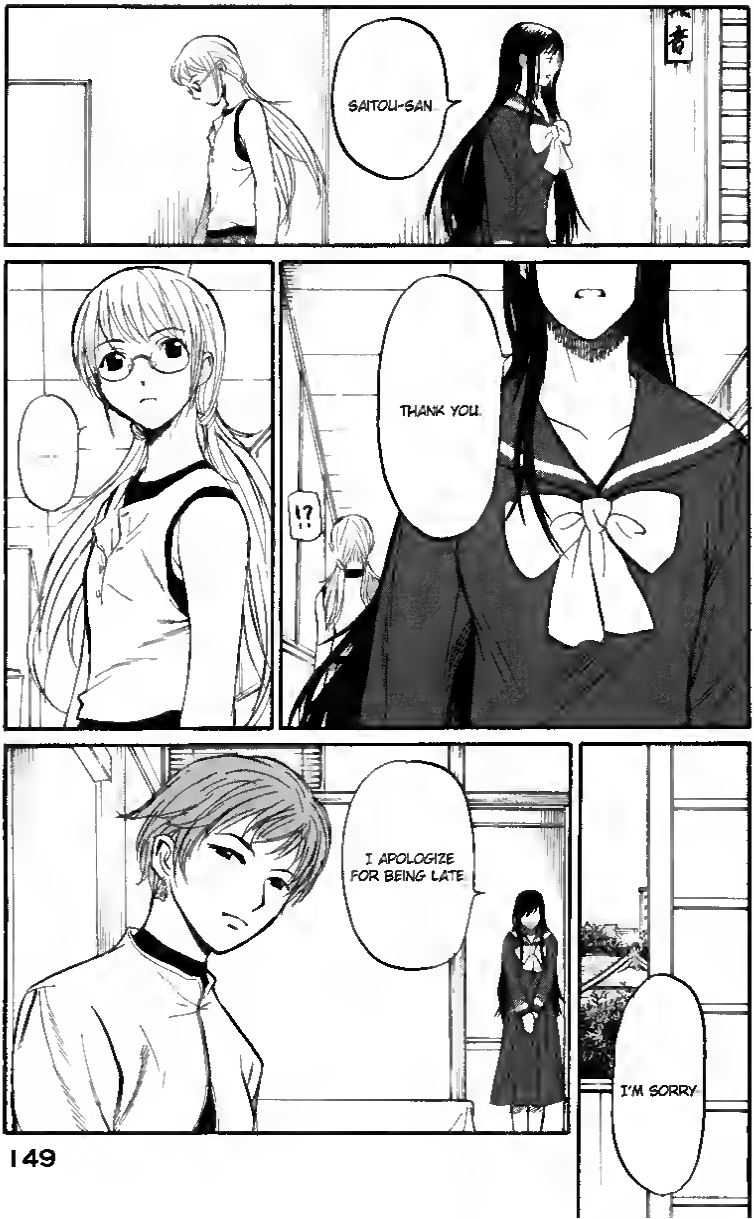
THREAT COULD IT BE...

I NEVER SENT FAX LIKE THAT.
WAIT A SECOND! WHAT DO YOU MEAN, KILL?
I ONLY PUT A NOTE IN HER MAILBOX, REALLY!


A FAX THAT SAYS "I'LL KILL HER"...
THAT'S MORE THAN JUST A PRANK.


BECAUSE...I WANT AYUMI TO WIN.
...
飛香


I MEAN...IS YASUOKA-SAN HERE?
I HEAR SHE LEFT HER HOUSE BEFORE 8, SO SHE SHOULD BE ARRIVING SOON.
UM, IS SHION-CHAN...
IT'S ALMOST TIME, YOU SHOULD HURRY TO YOUR MATCH ROOM
HAI
HISATANI-KUN IS WITH HER, SO DON'T WORRY.
IT LOOKS LIKE SHION-CHAN ISN'T HERE YET.


SAITOU-SAN
THANK YOU.
!?
I APOLOGIZE FOR BEING LATE
I'M SORRY

WHY IS EVERYONE SO KIND TO THAT GIRL?
SHE CAN'T EVEN SAY THANKS.
NO..
SO..?
. HAVE YOU EVER WATCHED ONE OF HER MATCHES?

...HER WORDS.
SHOGI IS...
EVERYONE SIMPLY...
WANTS TO HEAR THEM.
YASUOKA-SAN HAS ARRIVED!
SHE'S IN HER MATCH ROOM.
OOH! SO SHE MADE IT IN TIME.

IT'S TIME TO START.

The Fifth Move
The Move of Tears

JORYUU SHINKYUU OUKANSEN*
GRAND PRIZE 1 MILLION YEN. 2ND PLACE GETS 100,000 YEN.*
IT IS A NEW TOURNAMENT MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE SPONSORSHIP OF DIGITAL PHONE

*JORYUU NEW AND OLD CROWN TOURNAMENT

*T/L NOTE: 1 MILLION YEN IS AROUND $10,000, 100,000 YEN IS AROUND $1,000

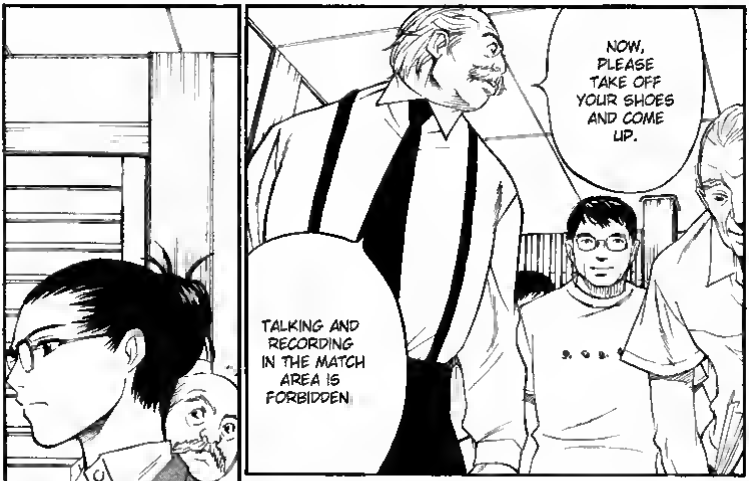
FROM A RANDOM DRAW, 30 FANS ARE ABLE TO WATCH THE MATCHES FOR FIVE MINUTES LIVE
AFTERWARDS THEY WATCH THE REST USING A GROUND-BREAKING NEW SYSTEM WHERE, USING TV FEEDS TO CAMERA PHONES, THEY ARE ABLE TO SEE BOTH THE CONTESTANTS AND THE MATCH BOARD.
新
流
主催／(株)デジタル
THE ONES WHO ARE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TOURNAMENT ARE THOSE WHO DURING THE PAST YEAR HAVE EITHER WINNING RECORDS OR WHO HAVE PASSED THE TRAINING LEAGUE, 15 IN TOTAL
AS SUCH, IT LIVES UP TO THE NAME "NEW AND OLD CROWN"
IT IS THE FIRST BIG-NAME TOURNAMENT FOR THE NEWCOMERS WHO HAVEN'T YET EARNED MUCH MONEY

EACH PLAYER IS AFFORDED AN HOUR OF PLAYING TIME*
UNTIL THE SEMI-FINALS, THERE IS ONE MATCH EACH IN THE MORNING AND AFTERNOON

*T/L NOTE: LIKE IN CHESS, PRO SHOGI MATCHES ARE PLAYED WITH A TIMER. IN THIS TOURNAMENT EACH PLAYER HAS AN HOUR OF TIME THAT RUNS DOWN DURING THEIR MOVES.

SFX: A PIECE BEING PLACED ON THE BOARD

NORMALLY OUTSIDERS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO WATCH..
HOWEVER WE WANT PEOPLE TO SEE HOW TENSE THE MATCHES ARE.
BEYOND HERE IS THE MATCH AREA


NOW, PLEASE TAKE OFF YOUR SHOES AND COME UP.
TALKING AND RECORDING IN THE MATCH AREA IS FORBIDDEN

A young woman. That's rare.
It's pretty cramped...
There's enough lightning
The distance.

SFX. KACHI, KASHA - PICTURE-TAKING SFX

IT SEEMS YOU HAVE RECEIVED A THREAT, BUT...
!?
CUSTOMER!
DO YOU WANT TO WIN...
EVEN IF YOU'RE KILLED?

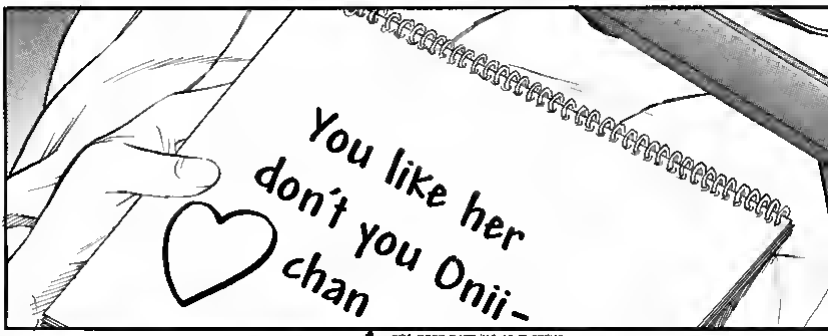
NOD...

GOOD WORK.
HOW WAS IT?
MY SHOULDERS ACHE, THERE WAS A STRANGE PRESSURE IN THE AIR
PHOTOS?
I THINK I GOT SOME...
WILL IT MAKE AN ARTICLE?

WHEN I ASKED HER, "DO YOU WANT TO WIN EVEN IF YOU'RE KILLED?"
I DON'T KNOW...
SHE STARED ME STRAIGHT IN THE EYE AND NODDED
...IT'S ALMOST LIKE
THIS IS A BATTLE-GROUND

GOOD WORK, SHION.
IF YOU WIN ONE MORE MATCH YOU'LL GET THROUGH TODAY SAFELY.
KATSUMI
SHION-CHAN!
CONGRAT-ULATIONS ON GETTING THROUGH THE FIRST MATCH.

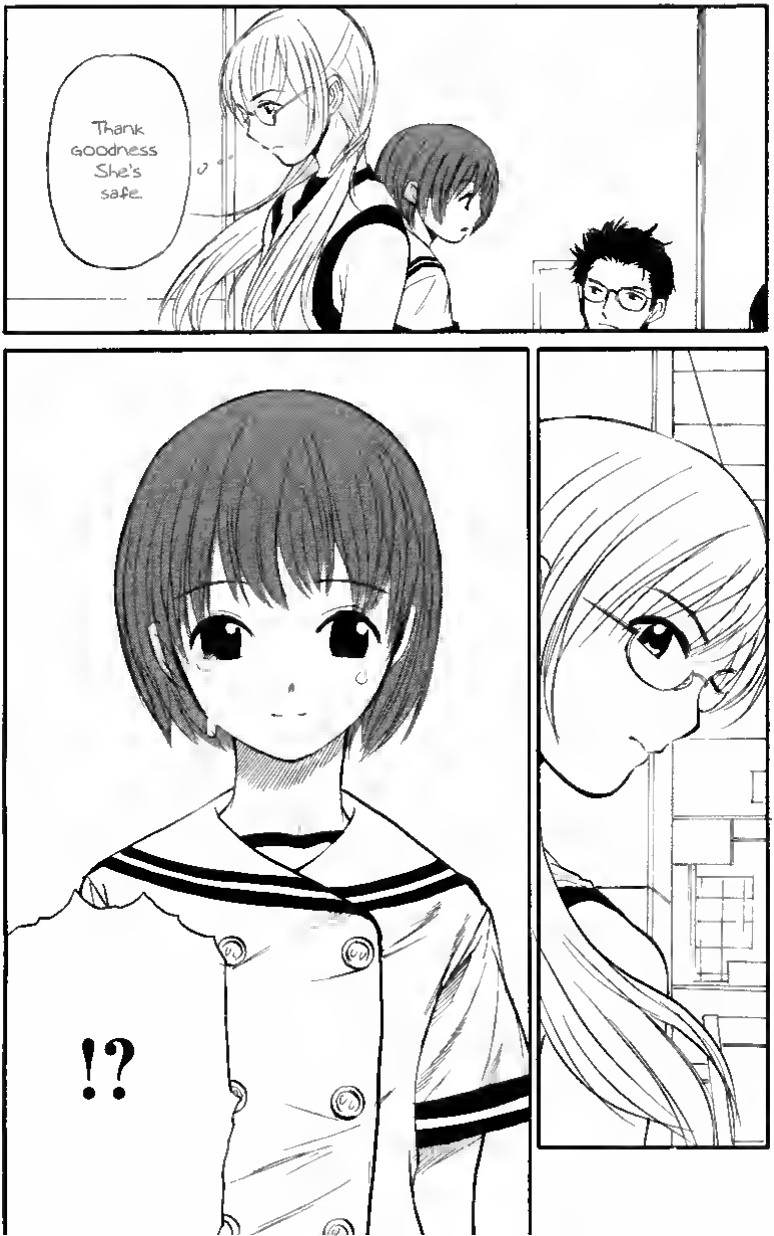
HIKITANI-SAN, PLEASE TEACH ME SHOUGI SOME TIME...
I'M KINDA IN A SLUMP.
I SOMEHOW MANAGED TO GET OUT OF THERE WITH MY HEAD STILL ATTACHED, AS WELL.
PLUS YOU HAVE HANI-SENSEI IN YOUR SCHOOL.
N-... NO WAY!
IF I WERE TO TEACH YOU YOU'D PROBABLY REGRESS.
THAT'S TRUE... 100,000 PER TEACHING MATCH WOULD REALLY ADD UP, WOULDN'T IT.
IT... IT'S A BIT TOUGH TO ASK HANI-NII...
I asked, but he pushed me all the way back home

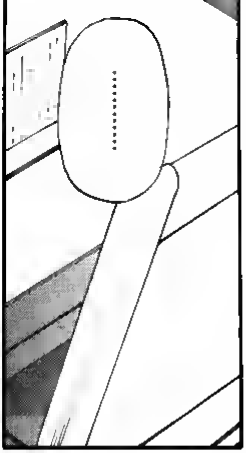


SFX. DOOR RATTLING AS IT OPENS

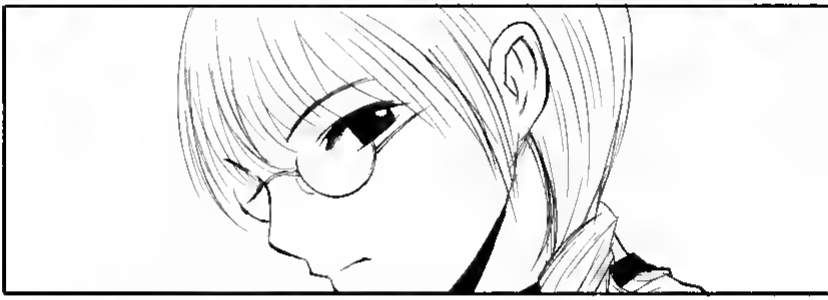
*T/L NOTE. HEAVY BREATHING

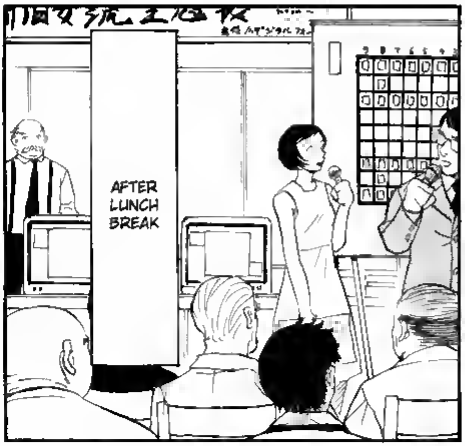
SHION?


Thank Goodness She's safe.
!?


.....

SHION! WHAT HAPPENED?
SHION-CHAN?




AFTER LUNCH BREAK

CAN'T BE...

TOURNAMENT SECOND ROUND
SHION DEFEATED JORYUU 2DAN NOGUCHI MEGUMI USING HER PREFERRED "AERIAL FIGHT"*
NIKAIDOU, SAITOU BOTH WON AND ADVANCED...
AND THEY ALL CONTINUED ON UNTIL THEY REACHED THE SEMI-FINALS THAT TAKE PLACE ONE WEEK LATER

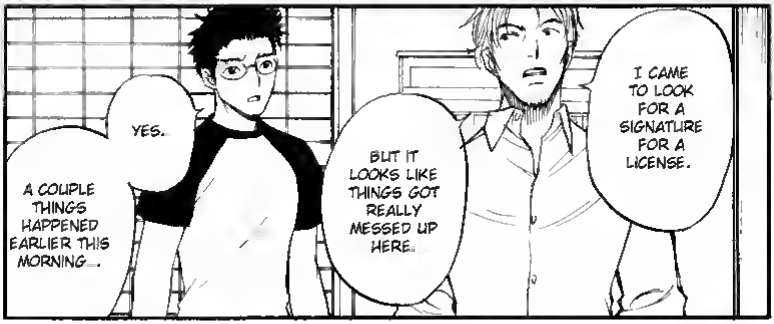
T/L NOTE AERIAL IS WRITTEN KUUCHUU IN JAPANESE WHICH, IN SHOUGI, IS LIKE A PLAY ON THE WORD FOR USING EMPTY SPACE (THEY'RE WRITTEN THE SAME WAY) ALL WE CAN TELL IS THAT IT'S SOME KIND OF OPENING STRATEGY

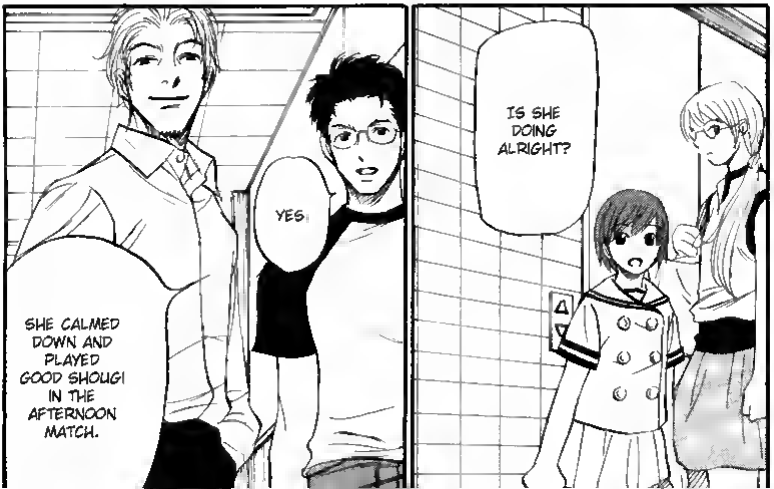
Saitou
Yamamoto
SO THE SEMI-FINAL IS AGAINST THAT SAITOU GIRL...
YOU WON'T LOSE THIS TIME, RIGHT?

SHION!?

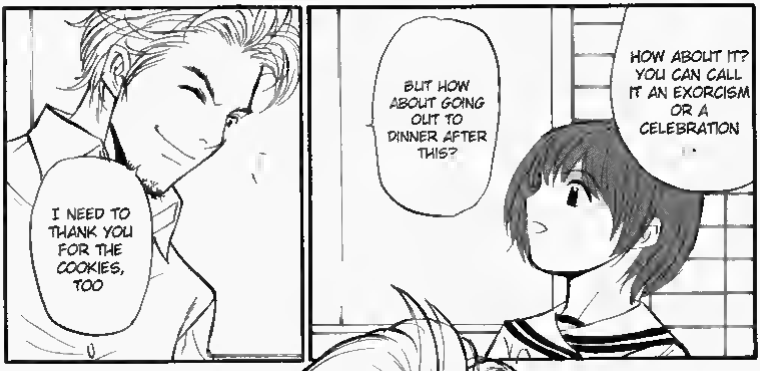
THREE NEWCOMERS ARE IN THE TOP FOUR, THAT'S IMPRESSIVE.
SHION...

HAN!-MEIJIN!


I CAME TO LOOK FOR A SIGNATURE FOR A LICENSE.
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THINGS GOT REALLY MESSED UP HERE.
YES.
A COUPLE THINGS HAPPENED EARLIER THIS MORNING...


IS SHE DOING ALRIGHT?
YES.
SHE CALMED DOWN AND PLAYED GOOD SHOUGI IN THE AFTERNOON MATCH.

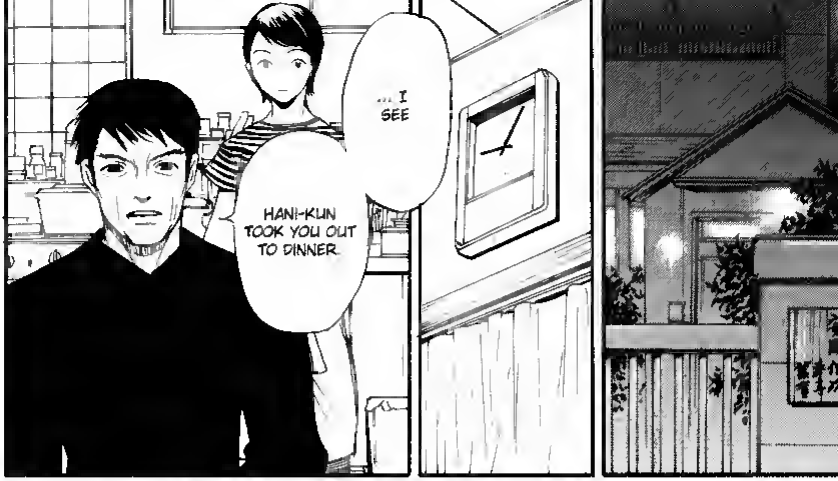
Yes!
YO, ARE YOU FEELING GOOD?


I NEED TO THANK YOU FOR THE COOKIES, TOO
BUT HOW ABOUT GOING OUT TO DINNER AFTER THIS?
HOW ABOUT IT? YOU CAN CALL IT AN EXORCISM OR A CELEBRATION

BUT DON'T LOSE
IT'S PROBABLY HECTIC AROUND YOU.

Thank you very much

IT...
IT'S A LOT MORE TOUCHING THAN... BEING TOLD OUT LOUD, ISN'T IT.

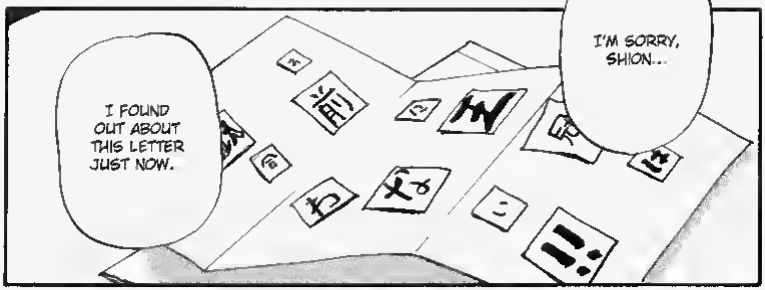

... I SEE
HANI-KUN TOOK YOU OUT TO DINNER

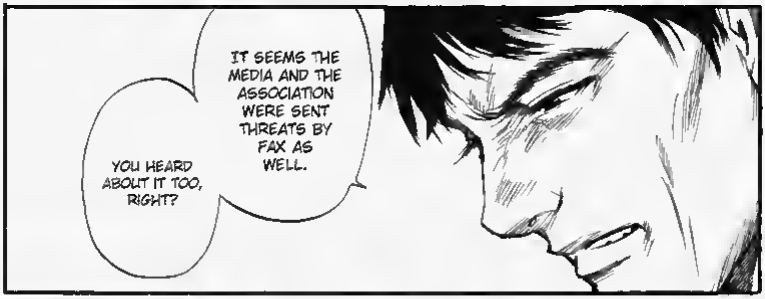
I'm sorry for being late

Yes! Lots

SHION, DID YOU HAVE FUN?

OK
THEN IT'S FINE


I'M SORRY, SHION...
I FOUND OUT ABOUT THIS LETTER JUST NOW.


IT SEEMS THE MEDIA AND THE ASSOCIATION WERE SENT THREATS BY FAX AS WELL.
YOU HEARD ABOUT IT TOO, RIGHT?

"IF SHE WINS I'LL KILL HER", IS WHAT THEY SAID...
...SHION.

I DON'T WANT TO MAKE YOU GO OUT TO MATCHES...
WE'RE BOTH REALLY WORRIED ABOUT YOU...
THIS IS YOUR FIGHT, AFTER ALL..
BUT...
WE CAN'T DO THAT, CAN WE..
...SO LISTEN..

7 YEARS AGO..
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU AND YOUR PARENTS
Piku.
SFX: HER HAND TWITCHING IN SURPRISE
!?
SHION, YOU..
YOU KNEW IT ALL ALONG?

OTOU-SAN, OKAA-SAN

THANK YOU FOR ALWAYS TREATING ME SO AFFECTIONATELY

FOR A LONG WHILE I HAD OCCASIONALLY BEEN HAVING A SCARY DREAM.

A DREAM WHERE I CAN'T TELL IF IT'S REALITY OR NOT
A BRIGHT-RED ROOM WITHIN A BRIGHT-RED DREAM...
ABOUT PAPA AND MAMA
ABOUT THAT NIGHT...
BUT I KNOW NOW
THAT WAS THE TRUTH
BUT PLEASE DON'T WORRY
I'M ALRIGHT

I HAVE SHOUGI
EVERYONE IS KIND TO ME
AND BOTH OF YOU ARE HERE FOR ME
SO I'M ALRIGHT
I CAN KEEP ON FIGHTING...

MATCH CHECK!

Diagrams and Commentary by Katon Missaru

FIGURE 1

Yamada-2dan uses Ibishatou. A little about Ibisha and Joryuu Kishi!

Just as there are Western Style and Oriental Styles in cooking, there are the Ibishatou (Static Rook) and the Furibishatou (Ranging Rook) opening strategies that different people use. The Ibishatou is when, at the opening, you don't move the Bisha (Rook), instead advancing the Po (Pawn) in front of the Bisha, and figure 1 is how an Ibishatou vs. Furibishatou match would look like. Those that use Ibishatou are said to be rather straightforward in their behaviors, with many being precise, calculating types. Shion also fits into this category. On the other hand, Ayumi, a Furibishatou, can be said to be the type that relies on instincts and reads opposing plans.

Shougi is a mental game, and so I believe there are many who think males and females should be able to play alongside each other, but unfortunately in reality, there are clear differences in the levels along with the match making system and treatment of the other sex. Recently, there are more and more female Kishi that can defeat male Pros, but capturing any male titles would be in the far future.

Male Kishi are able to live on their match pay, whereas female Kishi cannot live solely on their match pay. Getting many sponsors, playing in matches, and then continuing to win is the only way to make a living. Each match would depend on the level and the sponsor, but pay ranges from 30,000 to 100,000 yen (300 to 1000 dollars, roughly). If one takes a title, they get several million yen (roughly 10,000 dollars). That's the system. It's not a very lucrative world for matches.

It's one of the "Seven Wonders of Shougi Pros!" but, right now, there are many who hate the cell phones that everyone has. I wonder why? Maybe they're reading forward and fearing the destruction of brains. About how much do you look forward? About five moves forward is my limit." is what I asked a pro, and the response was, "Every game, I read about 10,000 moves." Scary.

A Hanashi/Ijo Project
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Edits: cara
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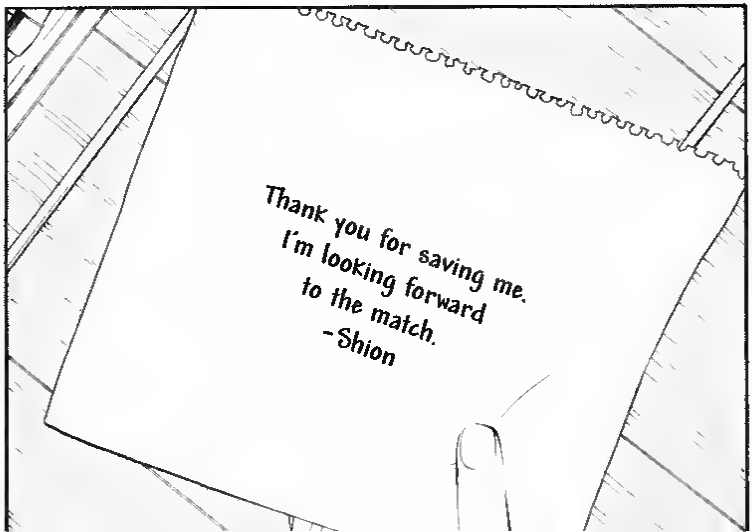
6th Move
The Kings Mystery

……


Thank you for saving me.
I'm looking forward
to the match.
-Shion

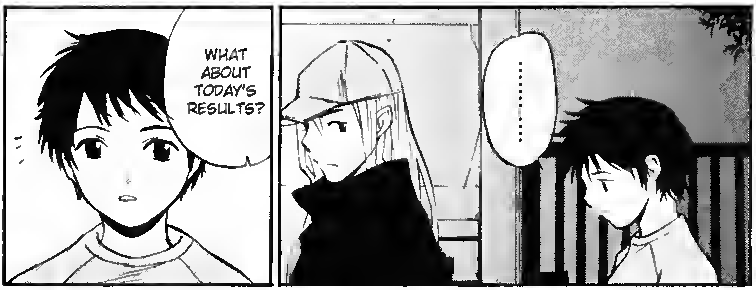
*T/L NOTE CELL-PHONE RING

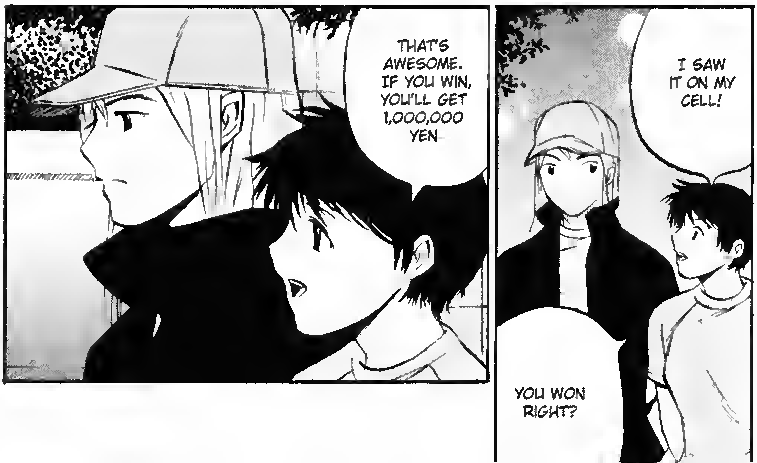
WHERE'RE YOU GOING?
HOW ABOUT FOOD?
IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY, GO BUY SOMETHING.
TO WORK
*SFX- OPENING DOOR

HEY!
AYUMI!!!

ERI ..

I REALLY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT A DEATH THREAT, MINE WAS JUST A PRANK.
IT'S FINE.
ARE YOU STILL DOUBTING ME?
AYUMI.


WHAT ABOUT TODAY'S RESULTS?
.....

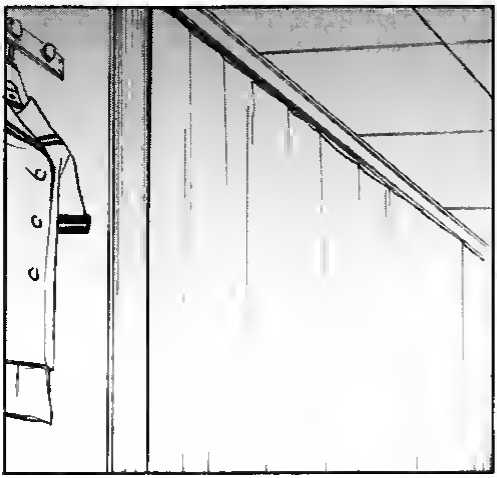

THAT'S AWESOME. IF YOU WIN, YOU'LL GET 1,000,000 YEN
I SAW IT ON MY CELL!
YOU WON RIGHT?

BUT ISN'T IT ODD?
IF YOU HADN'T SAVED HER, THEN SHE CERTAINLY WOULDN'T BE PLAYING SHOGI
YOU SHOULD DEFINITELY BE THE ONE TO ADVANCE TO THE FINALS
YOUR NEXT MATCH IS WITH THAT GIRL
AYUMI?
SHE ALREADY KNOWS...
BUT DESPITE THAT SHE SAYS SHE'S LOOKING FORWARD TO THE MATCH AGAINST ME...
THIS IS..
助けてくれて ありがとう
対局楽しみに しています。
奈青

SO ERI, PLEASE STOP INTERFERING
AYUMI
WHAT IF SHE TELLS!
SHE WON'T
YOU SAID YOU WERE GOING TO WIN AND MAKE MONEY
HOW CAN YOU TRUST THAT GIRL SO MUCH?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND!
WHY?

THAT'S OKAY.

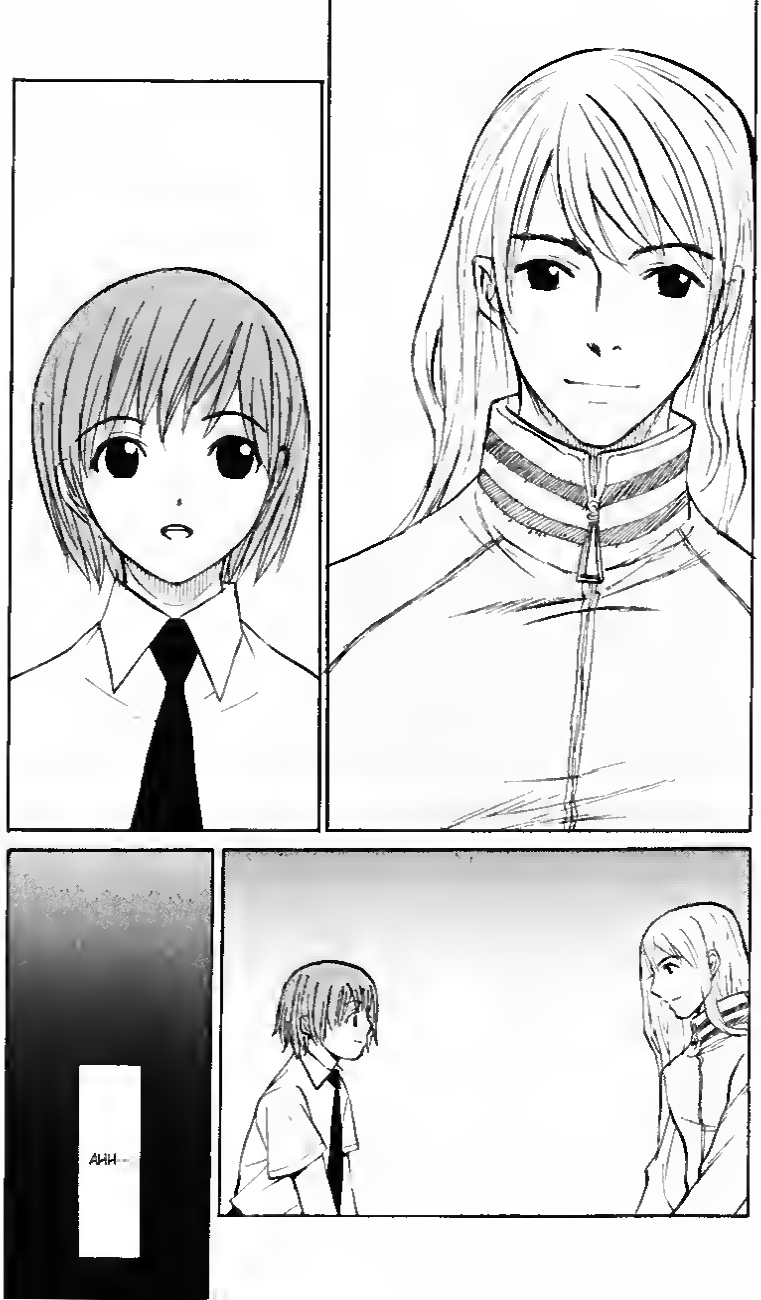
YOU DON'T HAVE TO UNDERSTAND.



AHH
...
IT'S THAT DREAM AGAIN!

I'M NOT THAT AFRAID TODAY.
BUT IT'S DIFFERENT FROM USUAL
Pachi
*SFX- PLACING A PIECE
——?
IF I HEAR THIS SOUND, I CAN CALM DOWN

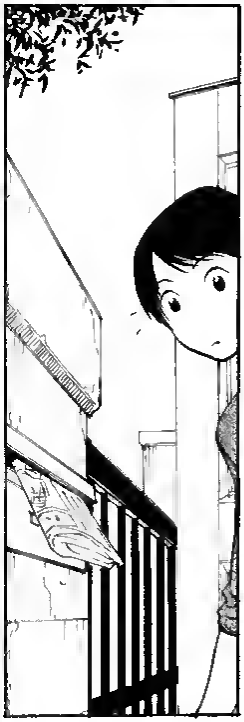
BUT THIS SHOGI IS STRANGE...
THE KING AND THE KING ARE...!!
!?


AHH...

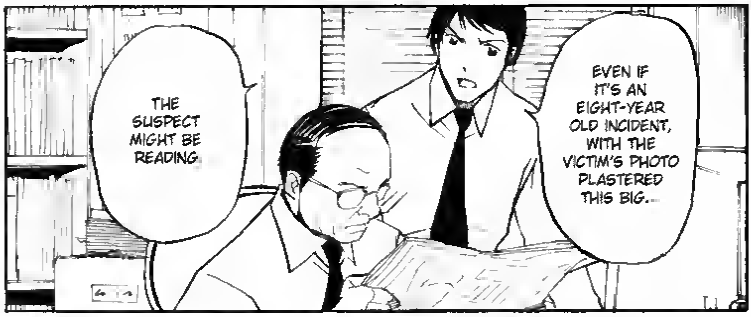
GOOD MORNING, KAA-SAN
GOOD MORNING.
I'LL GO GET THE NEWSPAPER.

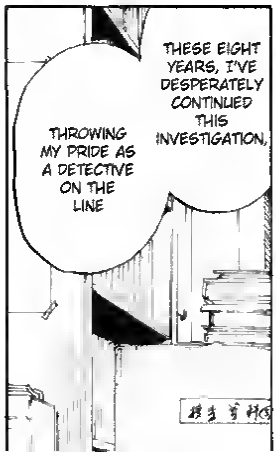
OTOU-SAN!
HMM?

SHION'S PHOTO IS IN THE PAPER...



EVEN FOR SPORTS PAPER GOSSIP MATERIAL THIS IS A LITTLE MUCH, DON'T YOU THINK.
WHAT'S YOUR TAKE, YOKOYAMA-SAN?


THE SUSPECT MIGHT BE READING.
EVEN IF IT'S AN EIGHT-YEAR OLD INCIDENT, WITH THE VICTIM'S PHOTO PLASTERED THIS BIG...

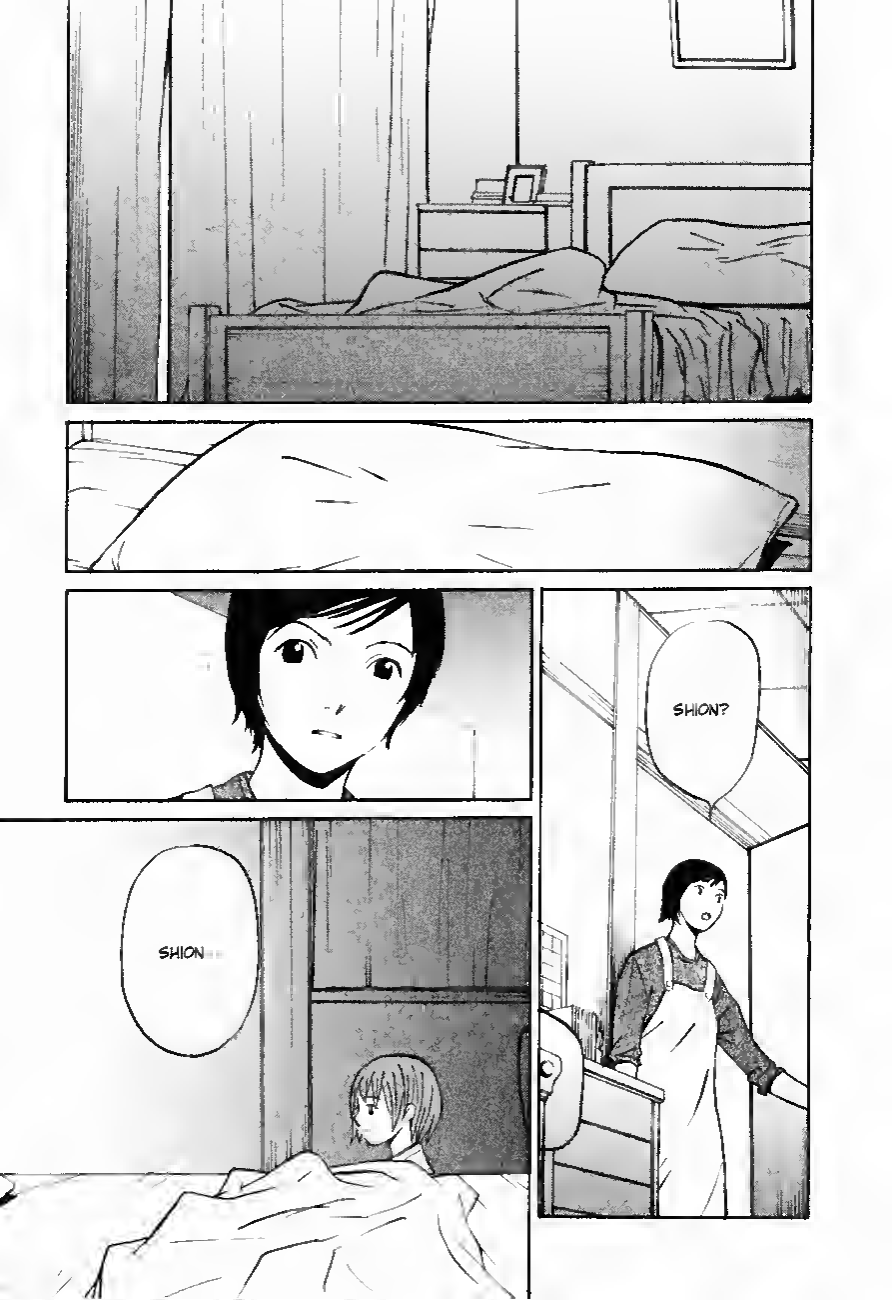

THROWING MY PRIDE AS A DETECTIVE ON THE LINE
THESE EIGHT YEARS, I'VE DESPERATELY CONTINUED THIS INVESTIGATION,

!?
THAT MAY BE OUR FINAL CHANCE.
IF THE SUSPECT MOVES AFTER READING THIS ARTICLE...

LET'S GO.
NO MATTER WHAT THE CASE MAY BE,
THE INVESTIGATION OF THIS INCIDENT IS OUR JOB
DESPITE THAT THIS GIRL, WITH HER OWN POWER,
MIGHT HAVE OPENED A DOOR THAT I HAVEN'T BEEN able TO OPEN
安岡信
NO, EVEN AFTER THE TOURNAMENT ENDS, WE WON'T ACCEPT THEM!
SHION IS IN THE MIDDLE OF AN IMPORTANT TOURNAMENT
AS I SAID, WE WON'T ACCEPT ANY INTERVIEWS.

ANYWAYS, WE'RE REFUSING ALL INTERVIEWS WITHOUT EXCEPTION!
AGAIN?
YES, THIS TIME A GIRL'S MAGAZINE.
HOW MANY COMPANIES DOES THIS MAKE IT?
Gacha!
SFX- HANGING UP
AT THIS RATE THEY'LL BE LINING UP AT THE GATE.
WE'LL LEAVE EARLY TODAY, SO GO WAKE UP SHION.
OK.
Pin Pon
ALREADY HERE EH?
SFX- DOOR BELL

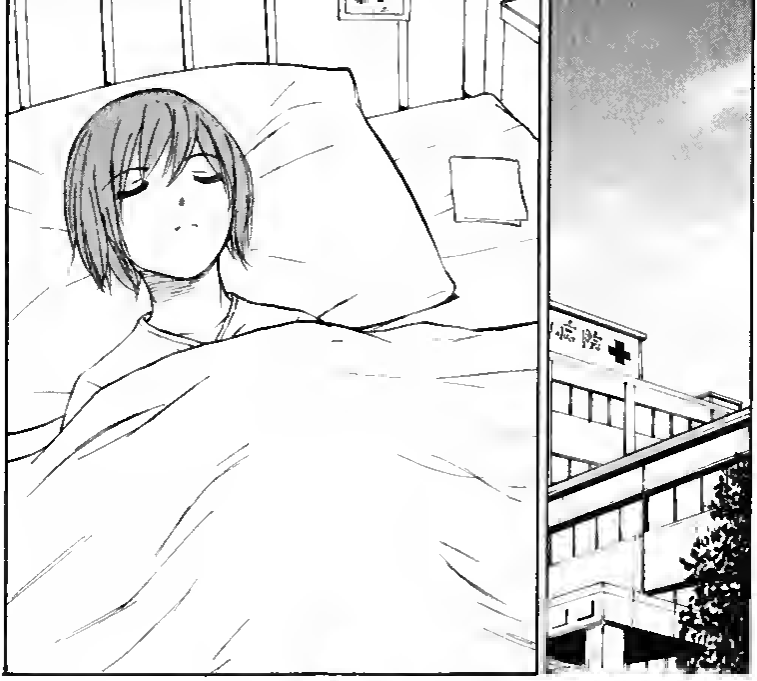
GOOD MORNING.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
YES!
DETECTIVE.
SHION
IT'S MORNING
ARE YOU AWAKE?


SHION?
SHION...

SHION!
SHION, WHAT HAPPENED!?
SHION!
!?

SHION, YOU..
faint
SHION!
?

SHION!
HANG ON!
SHION!!



WELL...
THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANY *OTHER* ABNORMALITIES BUT,

HOW IS SHION-SAN FEELING?

SHE SEEMS TO HAVE RECIEVED SUCH A SHOCK THAT SHE WON'T COME TO.

BLOOD?

SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN QUITE AFRAID OF BLOOD.

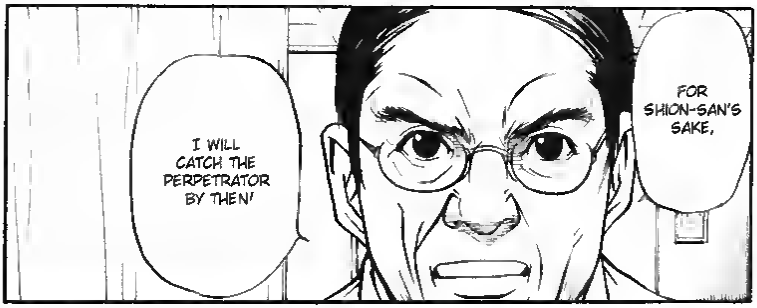
PLAYING A MATCH AFTER RECIEVING A DEATH THREAT. SHE'S PROBABLY BEEN FEELING OVER-WHELMED.
AND THE STRESS LATELY HAS PROBABLY BEEN ESCALATING THINGS

SHE REMEMBERS THE INCIDENT!?

SHE REMEMBERS THAT INCIDENT EVEN IF SHE DOESN'T WANT TO.

NOT SO MUCH REMEMBER IT,
AS HAVING LOCKED IT AWAY IN HER HEART.
I'M A FAILURE AS A FATHER...
I NEVER NOTICED THAT SHE WAS HAVING NIGHTMARES EVERY SO OFTEN AND SUFFERING ALONE
THAT'S NOT TRUE
.....
YOU CAN TELL JUST BY LOOKING,
HOW MUCH LOVE SHE'S BEEN GIVEN THESE PAST EIGHT YEARS...
SHE WAS ALL ALONE IN A SEA OF BLOOD THAT NIGHT.

I HAVE TWO MORE YEARS UNTIL RETIREMENT.


I WILL CATCH THE PERPETRATOR BY THEN!
FOR SHION-SAN'S SAKE,

THIS IS?
LIM... DETECTIVE
YOKOYAMA-SAN...

SHION WROTE THIS BEFORE SHE BLACKED OUT.
WOULD IT BE OF SOME HELP?
...KING.
THE NIGHT OF THE INCIDENT, A SHOGI PIECE WAS PLACED
ON THE FOREHEAD OF HER MURDERED FATHER
SO THIS GIRL SAW THAT SCENE AFTER ALL.
Only the suspect and witnesses know about this.

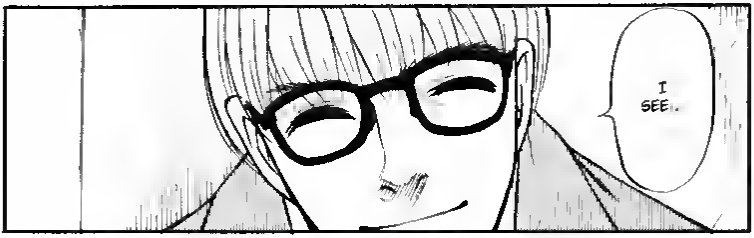
I WANT TO HEAR FROM SHION-SAN, DIRECTLY...
ABOUT THE INCIDENT
YASUOKA-SAN
YES?
WHEN IS HER NEXT MATCH?
AND I WILL BE CAREFUL NOT TO INTERFERE WITH HER SHOGI
OF COURSE, I DON'T MIND IF IT'S AFTER SHE RECOVERS.
WAIT! BUT THAT'S..

SIX DAYS FROM NOW.

TSUTSUI-SAN?
I'M KOBAYASHI, FROM DIGITAL PHONE.
IT'S BECOME QUITE A BIG ARTICLE.
MUCH MORE THAN WE EXPECTED.
WELL, THE OFFICE IS IN QUITE AN UPROAR

*T/L NOTE: STORY SONGS POPULAR BACK IN THE EDO ERA

*T/L NOTE: BEAUTIFUL YOUNG GIRL



ALL THIS IS ABOUT IS LITTLE GIRLS PLAYING SHOGI.
HOW ABOUT IT? WOULD YOU LIKE TO CONTINUE TO COVER OUR TOURNAMENT?
TO BE HONEST, WE DON'T HAVE ANY INTEREST IN WHO WINS OR LOSES.
I FEEL EXACTLY THE SAME WAY.
I COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT SHOGI.
SFX SUCKING THROUGH STRAW

AS LONG AS IT CREATES HEADLINES THEN THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS.
...ANY INTERESTING LEADS?
HAVE NO FEAR
IF IT'S LEADS YOU'RE AFTER, THERE ARE PLENTY AVAILABLE.

Shion no Ou

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